

Memo for Mr. E. A. Tamm

- 2 -

2/3/42

To: ERNSTAD JULIUS OTTO KUSHN  
was; et al; ESPIONAGE (3)

84591

Briefly, the charges pending against Subject are as follows:

1. Commencing on or about November 20, 1941, up to January 27, 1942, the date the charges were filed, Kushn with Otojiro Okuda and Nagao Kita, Vice Consul and Consul respectively of the Japanese Government in Honolulu, conspired to communicate and transmit to the Japanese Government certain writings relating to the movements and positions of several units of the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor in violation of Section 34, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

Eight specific overt acts are listed in connection with this conspiracy.

2. On or about November 28, 1941, Kushn visited Pearl Harbor for the purpose of obtaining information respecting battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, owned, constructed and under the control of the United States, in violation of Section 31, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

3. Kushn on or about December 2, 1941, unlawfully disclosed to agents of the Japanese Government information relating to United States battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and submarines at Pearl Harbor, in violation of Section 32, Title 50, U. S. C. A.

The prosecution of Subject will be followed closely and you will be kept advised of developments.

Respectfully,

D. M. LEHR



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**BERNARD KUEHN**

**PART 3 OF 7**

**FILE NUMBER: 65-1574**

SUBJECT KUEHN

FILE NUMBER 65-1574 SECTION 3

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)



SERIALS  
56-115

65-HQ-1574

SECTION 3

# FEDERAL BUREAU

of

## INVESTIGATION

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SERIALS 56-115

SECTION 3

Section 3  
Section 4

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **HONOLULU, T. H.**

FILE NO. **65-4**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Honolulu, T. H.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2-13-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/11-13/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE <b>BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, with aliases; ET AL.</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - J.</b>		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/10/04 BY SP8/TM  
#1268714

Table set forth reflecting numbers, according to types, of United States Navy ships in Pearl Harbor at the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., daily, from November 22nd through the 30th, 1941, as a basis of comparison with figures given by OTTO KUEHN to Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, on December 2, 1941. Detailed figures set forth on numbers and movements of ships in Pearl Harbor throughout the day of November 28, 1941. Post Office Box 1476, Honolulu, mentioned in signal plan furnished by Japanese Consulate to Foreign Office, Tokyo, December 3, 1941, is rented to OTTO KUEHN. Check of fingerprints of OTTO KUEHN and wife FRIEDEL fails to reveal previous records.

REFERENCE:

Report of [Redacted] at [Redacted]  
Honolulu, T. H., dated January 31, 1942.

DETAILS:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.

In order to serve as a basis of comparison with the figures submitted by Subject OTTO KUEHN to the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, on December 2, 1941, regarding the size according to types of the United States Naval Fleet based at Pearl

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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36 COPIES OF THIS REPORT  
36 AUGUST 4 1942 Bureau (Recd.) AIR MAIL SEC ONE

- 1 - [Redacted] (Ungeclassified)  
1 - [Redacted] (Ungeclassified)  
1 - ONI, Honolulu, T. H.  
1 - U.S. Attorney, Honolulu  
3 - Honolulu (1 L Hon. File 65-412)

1574 + 56

RECORDED

INDEXED

FEB 19 1942

EX-18

654

Harbor, T. H., the following table was prepared by [redacted]  
 [redacted] advised that the figures reflected therein were  
 made up by [redacted]  
 Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBERS OF BATTLESHIPS, HEAVY CRUISERS,  
 LIGHT CRUISERS, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, SUBMARINES, DESTROYERS,  
 AND DESTROYER-TYPE VESSELS IN PEARL HARBOR, AT 0800 AND  
 1800, 22-30 NOVEMBER, 1941.**

Types of Ships										
DATE	TIME	BBs	CA <sub>s</sub>	CL <sub>s</sub>	CV <sub>s</sub>	SS <sub>s</sub>	DD <sub>s</sub>	DM <sub>s</sub>	AVD <sub>s</sub>	(#)
11-22	- 0800	3	6	1	1	4	21	6	2	31
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	22	8	2	32
11-23	- 0800	3	6	1	1	4	22	8	2	32
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	22	4	2	28
11-24	- 0800	3	6	1	1	4	21	4	1	26
	1800	3	6	1	1	4	21	4	2	27
11-25	- 0800	3	6	1	1	4	24	5	2	31
	1800	3	10	1	2	4	26	8	3	37
11-26	- 0800	3	10	1	2	4	24	8	2	34
	1800	3	11	1	2	4	23	8	3	34
11-27	- 0800	3	11	1	2	4	23	8	3	34
	1800	3	11	1	2	4	28	8	3	39
11-28	- 0800	1	8	0	2	4	11	4	3	18
	1800	7	8	5	1	2	26	4	3	33
11-29	- 0800	6	7	6	1	2	24	4	3	31
	1800	6	7	5	1	2	26	4	3	33
11-30	- 0800	5	7	5	1	2	25	4	3	32
	1800	5	7	5	1	2	26	4	3	33

**Key:** BB - battleship; CA - heavy cruiser; CL - light cruiser;  
 CV - aircraft carrier; SS - submarine; DD - destroyer;  
 DM - light mine layer (destroyer type); AVD - seaplane  
 tender (destroyer type).

(#) - Total of destroyer type craft. DMs and AVDs were built  
 as destroyers and converted to their present use. To  
 the untrained eye, they would appear as destroyers.

"TABLE OF NUMBER AND MOVEMENT OF SHIPS IN PEARL HARBOR, BY  
TIRES, AT VARIOUS TIMES BETWEEN 0600 AND 1800, 28 NOVEMBER,  
1941

BATTLESHIPS (BBs)

0600 - At moorings (ARIZONA, NEVADA, OKLAHOMA)	3
0658 - NEVADA underway	3
0705 - ARIZONA underway	3
0748 - NEVADA cleared	2
0801 - ARIZONA cleared	1
1045 - PENNSYLVANIA entered	2
1053 - CALIFORNIA entered	3
1102 - MARYLAND entered	4
1110 - TENNESSEE entered	5
1123 - WEST VIRGINIA entered	6
1155 - PENNSYLVANIA moored	6
1210 - CALIFORNIA moored	6
1232 - MARYLAND moored	6
1240 - TENNESSEE moored	6
1306 - WEST VIRGINIA moored	6
1547 - UTAH moored (#)	7
1648 - UTAH moored (#)	7
1800 - At moorings	7

(#) The UTAH was commissioned as a battleship, but later demilitarized and used as a target ship. To the untrained observer, she might appear to be a battleship.

HEAVY CRUISERS (CAs)

0600 - At moorings	11
0625 - NORTHAMPTON underway	11
0632 - CHESTER underway	11
0640 - SALT LAKE CITY underway	11
0718 - NORTHAMPTON cleared	10
0727 - CHESTER cleared	9
0735 - SALT LAKE CITY cleared	8

LIGHT CRUISERS (CLs)

0600 - Underway in harbor (DETROIT)	1
0637 - DETROIT cleared	0
1138 - HELENA entered	1
1131 - HONOLULU entered	2
1148 - ST LOUIS entered	3
1200 - PHOENIX entered	4

654

LIGHT CRUISERS (CLs) - cont'd.

1212 - RALEIGH entered	5
1250 - HELENA moored	5
1300 - HONOLULU moored	5
1300 - RALEIGH moored	5
1305 - PHOENIX moored	5
1328 - ST. LOUIS moored	5
1350 - DETROIT entered	6
1510 - DETROIT moored	6
1800 - At moorings	6

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS (CVs)

0600 - At moorings (LEXINGTON, ENTERPRISE)	2
0735 - ENTERPRISE underway	2
0838 - ENTERPRISE cleared	1
1800 - At moorings	1

SUBMARINES (SSs)

0600 - At moorings	4
1254 - ARGONAUT underway	4
1300 - TROUT underway	4
1340 - ARGONAUT cleared	3
1350 - TROUT cleared	2
1800 - At moorings	2

DESTROYERS (DDs)

0600 - At moorings or underway	26
0602 - MUGFORD cleared	25
0605 - GRIDLEY cleared	24
0608 - MAURY cleared	23
0612 - BAGLEY cleared	22
0617 - HENLEY cleared	21
0620 - CRAVEN cleared	20
0621 - PATTERSON cleared	19
0623 - BALCH cleared	18
0625 - HELM cleared	17
0628 - RALPH TALBOT cleared	16
0630 - FANNING cleared	15
0632 - McCALL cleared	14
0640 - DUNLAP cleared	13
0641 - BENHAM cleared	12
0647 - CONYNGHAM cleared	11

DESTROYERS (DDs) - cont'd.

1205 - WORDON entered	12
1221 - ALWIN entered	13
1228 - CONNINGHAM entered	14
1232 - CASSIN entered	15
1236 - HULL entered	16
1243 - DALE entered	17
1245 - REID entered	18
1247 - DONNES entered	19
1254 - DESEY entered	20
1300 - MONAGHAN entered	21
1308 - TUCKER entered	22
1318 - CONNINGHAM moored	22
1330 - FARRAGUT entered	23
1333 - CASE entered	24
1336 - MacDONOUGH entered	25
1340 - PHELPS entered	26
1345 - CASSIN moored	26
1350 - ALWIN moored	26
1350 - REID moored	26
1407 - DONNES moored	26
1412 - TUCKER moored	26
1425 - WORDON moored	26
1435 - DALE moored	26
1440 - CASE moored	26
1446 - MONAGHAN moored	26
1446 - HULL moored	26
1459 - DESEY moored	26
1459 - FARRAGUT moored	26
1515 - PHELPS moored	26
1530 - MacDONOUGH moored	26
1800 - At moorings	26

MINESWEEPERS (DSs)

0600 - At moorings	8
0610 - GAMBLE underway	8
0612 - MONTGOMERY underway	8
0615 - BREESE underway	8
0625 - RAMSAY underway	7
0652 - GAMBLE cleared	6
0655 - MONTGOMERY cleared	5
0657 - BREESE cleared	4
0700 - RAMSAY cleared	4
1800 - At moorings	4

654

SEAPLANE TENDERS (AVDs)

0600 - At moorings  
1800 - At mooring

3  
3

It is again pointed out that [REDACTED] is the proper person to introduce this information at the trial in this case. It will be recalled the figures submitted by OTTO KUEHN to the Japanese Consulate on December 2, 1941, as described by him in his statement furnished this office, were as follows:

7 Battleships  
6 Cruisers  
2 Aircraft carriers  
4 Destroyers  
27 Submarines

It is observed that while KUEHN's figures are remarkably accurate regarding battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers and destroyers in Pearl Harbor as of November 28, 1941, his figures regarding the number of submarines are highly inaccurate. It is to be noted the largest number of submarines in Pearl Harbor at any time during November 28, 1941, is four.

It is pointed out, however, that due to the location of the submarine base in the harbor, it is hardly possible to observe the submarines from any point outside of the Naval Reservation.

For the information of the Bureau, there is being enclosed with copies of this report a diagram of a Pearl Harbor Mooring and Berthing Plan which was drawn up January 10, 1941, and which is self-explanatory.

Attention is directed to the report of Special Agent in Charge R. L. SHIVERS, dated December 26, 1941 at Honolulu, [REDACTED] in the case entitled, "JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, Honolulu, T. H. ESPIONAGE - J (COMFILE)." In this report there is set forth the decoded message transmitted by NAGAO KITA, Japanese Consul-General, Honolulu, to the Foreign Office, Tokyo, under date of December 3, 1941, which describes a signal plan for transmitting information

65-4

to the Japanese Government regarding United States Navy Fleet activities at Pearl Harbor, T. H. One of the means by which such information was to be transmitted as described in the Consulate message was through, "KMB want-ad advertisements, 9:45 a.m., (A) A Chinese rug, etc., for sale - Apply Post Office Box 1476, indicates 3 or 6."

It has been determined that Post Office Box 1476 is rented to OTTO KUEHN. Subject in this case.

Under date of January 19, 1942 fingerprint impressions of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN and his wife, FRIEDEL AUGUSTE BERTHE KUEHN, were forwarded to the Bureau for a check against the records in the Identification Division for any previous records on these subjects. The Bureau advised by wire of February 1, 1942 that there are no previous records of these individuals on file in the Identification Division.

- P E N D I N G -

65-4

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE HONOLULU FIELD DIVISION:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.

Will follow and report the results of  
OTTO KUEHN's trial before the Military  
Commission.

- P E N D I N G -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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**SECRET**

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

b7c  
65-1574

February 19, 1942

Received 4:50 p.m.  
Dictated 4:55 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: OTTO KUEHN, with aliases; b7c  
ESPIONAGE - J

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT AS NOTED  
DATE 2/19/2014 BY SP5

CLASSIFIED BY: SP5  
DATE: 2/11/86  
DECLASSIFY ON: 2/26/2014

For your information, Count 8 is the last of the specific  
overt acts alleged in the charges preferred against Kuehn. It  
reads as follows:

"(a) Honolulu, T. H. On or about the third day of December, Nagao  
Kita did transmit a plan and system of signals previously  
prepared by Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn to the Foreign Minister  
of the Imperial Japanese Government at Tokyo, Japan."

Respectfully,

Attachment

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3/3 AUG 14 1970

2 MAR 3 - 1942

COPY IN FILE **SECRET**

b6  
b7c

SEARCHED	65-1574-57
SERIALIZED	FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INDEXED	10 FEB 23 1942
FILED	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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Transcribed 2/23/42

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED  
INDEXED

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Further references is made to my memoranda of January 9, and January 19, 1942, regarding certain messages dispatched by Nagae, Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, setting forth a complete system of signals to be employed in communicating intelligence information to the Japanese Fleet.

As you may recall, it was determined that Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was responsible for the preparation of the signaling system in question, which he furnished to representatives of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu on December 2, 1941.

On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu following the preferring of charges by the Judge Advocate General's Department, United States Army, alleging a violation of Sections 31, 32 and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. Specifically, Kuehn was charged with conspiring with the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit information to Japan pertaining to the national defense of the United States and performing certain overt acts to culminate this conspiracy. Further, he was charged with the transmitting, on or about December 2, 1941, of information relating to the United States Fleet and the national defense of America to an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with the unlawful obtaining of information regarding the number and types of United States vessels based at Pearl Harbor, with the intent and reason to believe that the information obtained was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of Japan.

The Military Commission on February 21, 1942, returned a verdict of guilty on the above charges and sentenced Kuehn to be shot. The information with reference to the verdict in this case was furnished to the Bureau in the strictest of confidence, with the request that it not be divulged.

As the execution of this sentence will constitute the first death imposed on a subject in an espionage case in this country during the present World War, it is believed that you may be interested in this information.

SENT FROM D. O.  
TIME 10:10 A.M.  
DATE 7-1-17  
BY

Respectfully,  
J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

(COPY)

January 27, 1942.

In reply refer to  
AC 902.9411A/44

PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letters of January 5 and January 21, 1942 addressed to Mr. Berle concerning certain activities on the part of the Japanese consular staff at Honolulu, Hawaii, and in response to the latter communication wish to state that

(1) This Department has plans under way for the transfer of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourages to continental United States;

(2) A subsequent exchange of American and Japanese consular personnel is planned;

(3) It does not seem advisable to take action blocking to the prosecution of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourage at Honolulu for espionage and other subversive activities;

(4) There is no objection to the questioning of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families, and entourage at Honolulu regarding intelligence activities, including the activities of third persons;

(5) It is important that the questioning by the Federal Bureau of Investigation there be done promptly so it will not necessitate delay in the sailing of the Japanese official personnel from Honolulu;

(6) The date of the departure of the Japanese from Honolulu is not yet known to the Department of State;

(7) The Department of State will be pleased to have the Japanese from Honolulu detained at a place and under conditions of custody agreeable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(8) The Department of State would appreciate receiving from the Federal Bureau of Investigation suggestions as to suitable places for their detention.

Sincerely yours,

BRECKINRIDGE LONG  
Assistant Secretary

J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Federal Bureau of  
Investigation,  
Department of Justice.

EE 11 153: b6, b7c

Confid. Letter to Head 2/1/42 LXYZ  
DECEMBER

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Headon  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy  
FBI

RECORDED AND INDEXED  
BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFERRED TO  
THE SUBDIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

B:JMcItBM

146-7-1582

February 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER,  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 21, 1942, and previous memoranda concerning the possible prosecution of Magao(Kita), Japanese Consul General, and Atojiro(Okuda), Vice-Consul at Honolulu, in connection with their espionage activities during the week prior to December 7, 1941.

I have discussed this matter with Brackinridges Long, Assistant Secretary of State, and have been advised by him that the Department of State cannot, in view of the pending negotiations for the exchange of American and enemy diplomatic and consular officials, consent to the detention and prosecution of Japanese officials who were subject to the exchange agreement.

Mr. Long stated, however, that Consul General Kita might be interrogated concerning his activities and the activities of other persons who are not under the protection of the exchange agreement. Mr. Long advised me in confidence that Kita has been detained incommunicado, which action was taken in retaliation for similar treatment accorded to an American consular official in Southeastern Asia.

With respect to the prosecution of persons (other than consular officials) who may have participated in espionage activities, it is suggested that prosecution be instituted in accordance with the law now prevailing in the Territory of Hawaii. Your memorandum of January 19, 1942, states that the Military Commission established in the Territory of Hawaii is presently exercising jurisdiction over all capital offenses and other violations where the prescribed punishment is in excess of five years' imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.

It is requested that reports covering the investigation of the activities of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, his family and associates, be furnished to the Criminal Division.

Respectfully,

Wendell Bergé,  
Assistant Attorney General

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Confs Letter to Honolulu 2-11-42 XXX

E

February 11, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge  
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: JAPANESE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES;  
COMFILE - J

Bear Sir:

Enclosed

There is quoted hereinafter a memorandum dated February 4, 1942, received by the Bureau from Assistant Attorney General Wendell Willkie:

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 21, 1942, and previous memoranda concerning the possible prosecution of Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul General, and Atejiro Okuda, Vice-consul at Honolulu, in connection with their espionage activities during the week prior to December 7, 1941.

I have discussed this matter with Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, and have been advised by him that the Department of State cannot, in view of the pending negotiations for the exchange of American and enemy diplomatic and consular officials, consent to the detention and prosecution of Japanese officials who are subject to the exchange agreement.

Mr. Long stated, however, that Consul General Kita might be interrogated concerning his activities and the activities of other persons who are not under the protection of the exchange agreement. Mr. Long advised me in confidence that Kita has been detained incommunicado, which action was taken in retaliation for similar treatment accorded to an American consular official in Southeastern Asia.

With respect to the prosecution of persons (other than consular officials) who may have participated in espionage activities, it is suggested that prosecution be instituted in accordance with the law now prevailing in the Territory of Commonwealth of the Philippines of January 19, 1942, states that the

MAILED 3  
FEB 12 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. C. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gold \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Barnes \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rothstein \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Stiles \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Brady \_\_\_\_\_

SAC Honolulu

- 2 -

4/11/43

RE: JAPANESE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES;

XCONF/FILE - J

"Military Commission established in the Territory of Hawaii is presently exercising jurisdiction over all capital offenses and other violations where the prescribed punishment is in excess of five years' imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine.

"It is requested that reports covering the investigation of the activities of Bernard Julius Otto Kuhn, his family and associates, be furnished to the Criminal Division."

It is suggested that your investigation in this case be conducted in accordance with the instructions contained in the above memorandum.

"For your information, the Department has orally advised that the statement contained in paragraph three of the quoted memorandum to the effect that Consul General Kita might be interrogated is not intended to limit your investigation or questioning to that individual.

The Department of State has also advised the Bureau that it would interpose no objection to the questioning of the members of the Japanese consular staff, their families and entourage at Honolulu regarding intelligence activities, including the activities of third persons. The State Department added that it is important that the questioning by the Bureau be done promptly so it will not necessitate delay in the sailing of the Japanese official personnel from Honolulu.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/11-82 BY SP5 CLYDE STANLEY

b6  
b7c  
65-1574  
Transcribed 2/23/42

MEMORANDUM

To: RICHARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN

Kuehn has been the subject of an intensive investigation by Special Agents of the FBI and representatives of OMI since February, 1939, when information was received by the FBI that he was suspected of being an espionage agent. Kuehn was reported to have no apparent source of income although he maintained two homes in Hawaii and entertained lavishly.

Investigation disclosed that Kuehn was born in Berlin, Germany, on July 25, 1895, and served in the Imperial German Navy during World War I. Following a sea battle with an English war vessel, his ship was sunk and Kuehn was taken captive by the English and interned until the end of hostilities. After his return to Germany, he studied architecture and again entered the German naval service as a Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After thus serving for about six months, Kuehn was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine at the University of Berlin and the University of Munich for about a year and a half and then engaged in various occupations in Germany.

Subject became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 following his attendance at a meeting called by Hitler in Kiel, Germany. According to Kuehn, he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler, but because of Himmler's dislike for Kuehn, Heydrich received the appointment.

On May 10, 1920, at Munich, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk, who although previously unmarried was the mother of two children, Leopold and Ruth. Two sons, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim were born of this marriage. (Leopold Kuehn is presently serving the Nazi Party as assistant to Propaganda Minister Goebbels.) Ruth Kuehn married J. Carson Moore, with whom she resided in Honolulu until December 6, 1941, when she was taken into custody as a German alien by Special Agents of the FBI.

RECORDED INDEXED 15-1574-6

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu on August 15, 1935, for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language. Investigation disclosed that over \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in the Bishop National Bank at Honolulu by the Rotterdam Bank Association, Amsterdam, through the National City Bank of New York, between May 14, 1936, and February 7, 1939. This income supposedly accrued from investments and business interests held by Subject in Germany and Holland. During an interview with Subject by representatives of OMI on November 2, 1939, Kuehn asserted that he was receiving money from property

which he owned in Germany, as a result of an arrangement effected with his [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

In the early Fall of 1940, according to information received from GMI, Kuslm had a dormer window constructed in the attic of his residence overlooking Kaneohe Air Station.

Investigation has disclosed that Kuslm has done considerable entertaining in Honolulu, exhibiting a particular interest in Army and Navy officers. It is also known that an enlisted sailor in a uniform, driving a car with Pearl Harbor tags, and also an automobile bearing identification tags of Schofield Barracks, has been seen visiting Subject.

According to information received from G-2, on January 20, 1940, reliable sources indicated that a couple identified as Mr. and Mrs. Friedel, apparently German, frequently had secretly approached the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu and had requested that he transmit some information to the Japanese Navy. On July 10, 1940, the Japanese Consulate General requested the Tokyo Foreign Office to advise them of the reliability of the Friedels. Two days later, according to G-2, the Foreign Office replied, stating in effect that the Japanese Navy could not place the Friedels very well but they would like to receive their information by wire with a notation that it emanated from them. G-2 added that the Japanese Navy apparently was prepared to compensate the Friedels for their information according to its value. The Friedels in all probability are identical with Kuehn and his wife.

On October 25, 1941, \$14,000 cash was delivered by [REDACTED] to Kuehn at his residence at Kalama, Eailua, Oahu, T. H.

On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of Sections 31, 32 and 34, Title 50, U. S. C. A. Briefly, these charges alleged that Kuehn conspired with the Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit to Japan information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and perform certain overt acts to culminate the conspiracy. Further, on or about December 8, 1941, Kuehn transmitted information relating to the United States Naval Fleet and national defense of America to an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with unlawfully obtaining information respecting the number and types of United States naval vessels based at Pearl Harbor with the intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of the Japanese Government.

A verdict of guilty on each of the above charges was rendered by the Military Commission on February 21, 1942, and Kuehn was sentenced to be shot.

RECORDED

65-1574-62  
Transcribed 2/23/42

**SPECIAL ATTENTION**

Major General Edwin H. Watson  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

### **Dear General Veterans:**

Reference is made to my letter of January 5, 1942, and its enclosure, which regarded the translations of certain messages exchanged between the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo, Japan.

As you may recall, the translation of one of these messages, dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in transmitting information to the Japanese Fleet pertaining to the number and movements of United States vessels stationed at Pearl Harbor. One of the signals to be employed was a "light in dormer window of Kalana house from 7 p. m. to 1 a. m. every hour", which was to indicate the sailings of American aircraft carriers and battle forces on certain dates.

Investigation has disclosed that the Kalama house with the former window mentioned in this signal was owned by Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and his wife Friedel. These individuals, with their daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, were interned at Honolulu on December 8, 1941. Following his detention, Kuehn in a written statement admitted that he prepared the signaling system in question at the request of officials of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, furnishing it to them on December 2, 1941. It is also known that Kuehn on one occasion received \$14,000 from a Japanese Consulate official in Honolulu.

Charges against Kushner for violation of the Federal Espionage Act were preferred by the Judge Advocate General's

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 5  
★ FEB 25 1942 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Major General Edwin H. Watson

Department, U. S. Army, at Honolulu, T. H., and on February 21, 1942, Kuhn was convicted by the Military Commission and sentenced to be shot.

Attached hereto, as of possible interest to the President and you, is a memorandum reflecting a brief summary of the information contained in the files of this Bureau concerning Kuhn.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

BY SPECIAL  
MESSENGER

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON**  
**MR. Tamm**  
**MR. Ladd**

In conference with the Attorney General today I suggested that he give his very prompt attention to the memorandum that had been dictated to him concerning Bernard Julius Otto Lushn, the German alien who has been tried by Military Court in Hawaii and ordered to be shot. I advised the Attorney General that the decision in this case was secret, but I believed he should immediately discuss the matter with the President, the State Department, and the War Department in order that an early decision could be made as to the disposition of the same with due consideration to any possible retaliation against nationals of this country in either Germany or Japan.

Very truly yours

*John Edgar Hoover  
Director*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-06-02 BY SAC/DO  
#268714

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



CONFIDENTIAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

SECRET

March 5, 1942

65-1574-51

MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

Re: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn,  
with aliases; et al.; Espionage-J.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

At the request of [REDACTED] of the National Defense Division, the two photostatic copies of a coded radiogram, designated as Q1, which were submitted to the Bureau with an Investigative Report made in Honolulu on January 31, 1942 by [REDACTED] in connection with the above-entitled case were examined.

Specimen Q1 is apparently transmitted in Japanese Diplomatic Code to Gaimudaijin, the foreign office at Tokio, and is signed Kita, the cable signature for the Japanese Legation at Honolulu. This message is apparently transmitted in Japanese Diplomatic Code or enciphered code and could not be decoded in the Laboratory inasmuch as the necessary code books are not available.

The photostats submitted are being retained in the files of the Laboratory [REDACTED] In the event that any additional information is received regarding this code and a decode is effected your office will be advised.

Respectfully,

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
DATE [REDACTED]  
DECLASSIFY ON [REDACTED]  
#268714

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65-1574-14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
14 MAR 7 1942	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

COPY IN FILE

4 MAR 12 1942 R

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. C. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hodson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. O'Fallon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Morris \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Smith \_\_\_\_\_

b1  
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b7c

Honolulu, T. H.  
February 16, 1942

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
(Alien Enemy Control)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated February 9, 1942, in the case entitled, "Japanese Activities, Honolulu, T. H.; ESPIONAGE PROFILE (J)," of which the New York City Field Division was furnished a copy, Bureau file #65-1574.

For the information of the New York Field Division, reference is made to an investigation of one ERNST JULIUS OTTO KUHN, better known as OTTO KUHN, by the Honolulu Office, in connection with the Japanese espionage activities in Honolulu, T. H. OTTO KUHN was born July 25, 1885, in Berlin, Germany. In April, 1913, he enlisted in the German Navy, and became a midshipman aboard a German cruiser, serving until January 1916, when his ship was sunk and he was made a prisoner of war by the British. Following the armistice, KUHN returned to Berlin, remaining in Germany up until April, 1933. During that period, in 1930, he, together with his wife and son, became a member of the Nazi Party. On one occasion, in 1933, by his own statement, he was considered for a position with the Nazi Party which was instead given to ERNST REINHOLD REINHOLD HEYDRICH and which later developed into the position of chief of the Gestapo system. After failing to obtain this position, KUHN worked for a brief period as an investigator for the Nazi Party, but became involved in some difficulties with the party and was forced to resign, following which, in April, 1935, he left Germany with his wife, proceeding to Honolulu, where he has since remained. At the present time,

Investigation by the Honolulu Office has developed that KUHN, during November, 1941, worked closely with the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu in furnishing information regarding the numbers and types of United States Navy ships in Pearl Harbor, T. H., and also devised a plan of signals by means of which information regarding the movements of United States Navy ships in Hawaiian waters might be transmitted to the Japanese Fleet.

Bureau

SSAC, New York, New York

February 14, 1942

As a result of OTTO KUEHN's activities in this connection, he has faced trial before a military commission, which convened at Honolulu on February 19, 1942. Although the trial was completed on February 21, 1942, the verdict of the commission has not been made public, the entire proceedings having been conducted in strictest privacy.

SAC, New York, New York

February 24, 1941

For the information of the Bureau, the necessary inquiries have been made by the Honolulu Field Office to determine the contacts and acquaintances of OTTO KUEHN over a period of time, and all such persons have either been subjects of separate investigations by the Honolulu Field Office or have been appropriately eliminated as ones who might be engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States Government.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers  
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau ✓

February 16, 1942

65-1574

~~SECRET~~

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases: Otto Kuehn, (Otto Kuhn),  
Otto E. Kuhn, Mr. Kochn;  
ESPIONAGE - G - J

Subject first came to the attention of the Bureau in February, 1939, when an acquaintance of Assistant Director E. A. Tamm named [redacted]

[redacted] information which, he explained, had furnished to him by friends in the Hawaiian Islands, who desired to remain anonymous, indicating that subject and his wife, Friedel Bartsch Aguste Kuehn, were believed to be espionage agents. This report indicated that although the Kuehns had no apparent source of income, they owned two homes at Kailua, Oahu, one of which was very large and, further, that they entertained lavishly, particularly Army officers. This information was immediately referred to ONI and G-2. The San Francisco Field Division of the Bureau was instructed to conduct an investigation regarding the Kuehns when an Agent was next in the Territory of Hawaii.

Inquiry has disclosed that Kuehn was born in Berlin, Germany, on July 25, 1895. While serving as an Ober-Lieutenant in the Imperial German Navy during World War I, his ship was sunk and he was picked up by H. M. S. Lion. He was interned at Edinburgh until the end of hostilities, when he returned to Germany. Subject stayed in the German Navy for some time, eventually being dismissed therefrom for alleged financial difficulties.

Kuehn married his wife Friedel on May 10, 1920. At that time Friedel was the mother of two children, named Ruth and Leopold.

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DATE 8-12-89 BY SP-5/TM  
[redacted]

Sons, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim, resulted from the Kuehn marriage.

Kuehn admittedly has been associated with the Nazi Party since 1930, although he contends he did not become active until 1932. At the latter time, he assertedly accompanied [redacted] to Munich to see an official about securing a job with the Party. Through a ruse, [redacted] supposedly got to the official before [redacted] result, received the position which subsequently developed to be Chief of the German Gestapo system, working under [redacted]

65-1574-66

On August 15, 1935, Kuehn was admitted to the United States at Honolulu for a twelve-month period as a non-immigrant. At that time he gave as the purpose of his visit the desire to study the Japanese language in order that he might return to his native country and secure a position as translator and interpreter in the mercantile field. The immigration records contain a statement made by Kuehn revealing that he arrived in New York City on April 29, 1935, in transit to Japan via Honolulu. However, upon reaching the Orient, he decided he could make better progress in his study of the Japanese language at the University of Hawaii and, accordingly, returned to Honolulu on August 15, 1935, accompanied by his children Ruth and Martin Eberhard.

Kuehn's original entry permit was extended to August 14, 1937, to enable him to "continue his Japanese studies." Apparently he left Honolulu following this extension since he was admitted to the United States as a quota immigrant on October 29, 1936.

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At the time of their entry into this country, the Kuehns stated that although neither of them was employed, they had ample funds to cover their expenses while here.

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- 3 -

Immediately following Eshhn's first arrival in Honolulu in 1935, he temporarily resided at the Brookland Hotel, where he sought the companionship of young Navy officers, whom he reportedly entertained freely.

L<sup>d</sup><sub>C</sub>

Kraha was interviewed by OII on November 2, 1959, and admitted having been a member of the Socialist German National Party but claimed that when Hitler came into power it was necessary for him to leave Germany since he did not agree with the new government. He stated that he owned property in Germany and was receiving an income therefrom as a result of an arrangement effected

Japan, who was forwarding him, and who stated that the subject was transferring a similar model to Germany.

This stated arrangement appears to be contradictory to correspondence appearing in ONI's file indicating that it was impossible for

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Bonburg to arrange for the transmittal of funds from Japan to Kochi in  
Honolulu.

In reply to specific inquiry as to whether Eskin would be willing to assist OGI in gaining information regarding un-American activities in Honolulu, he stated that he would not accept such an offer for pay, but if any such data came to his attention, he would report it. He gave as his reason for refusing this proposition the fact that since his son and other relatives were still living in Germany, he could not afford to let it be known that he was working against that country.

However reports have been received by the Moscow Field Office indicating that the Nazis are very pro-German and pro-Nazi and interested in German clubs in Moscow.

According to information received from GBI in the early Fall of 1940, Neahn had a former window constructed in the attic of his residence overlooking Kanesha Air Station. GBI has advised that although numerous observations have been made of subject's house, no lights have ever been seen therein.

Further, it has been asserted that subject took advantage of every opportunity to observe all possible military movements, such as parades, drills, etc.

Investigation has revealed that Subject has done considerable entertaining in Spokane, exhibiting a particular interest in having Army and Navy officers as their guests. A list of Kuehn's associates, obtained from CINI, contains the names of five lieutenants

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According to information received from G-2, on January 20, 1940, reliable sources indicated that a couple identified as Mr. and Mrs. Friedel, apparently German, frequently had secretly approached the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu and had requested that he transmit some information to the Japanese Navy. On July 10, 1940, the Japanese Consulate General requested the Tokyo Foreign Office to advise them of the reliability of the Friedels. Two days later, according to G-2, the Foreign Office replied, stating in effect that the Japanese Navy could not place the Friedels very well but they would like to receive their information by wire with a notation that it emanated from them. G-2 added that the Japanese Navy apparently was prepared to compensate the Friedels for their information according to its value. The Friedels in all probability are identical with Kuhn and his wife.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Stedman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Devine \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Morrissey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Morrissey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on the Island of Oahu, at the request of the Honolulu Field Office, the Globe Wireless and Mackay Radio and Telegraph Companies furnished that Division with copies of all messages which had been sent and received by the Japanese Consulate in that city.

b7E

The translation of one of these messages dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu to the Foreign Minister at Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in communicating intelligence information to the enemy. One of the signals to be used was a "light in dormer window of Kalama house from 7 p. m. to 1 a. m. every hour", indicating the sailings of aircraft carriers and battle forces on certain dates.

As soon as the translation of this message was received, the Honolulu Field Office with OMI and G-2, instituted an investigation for the purpose of identifying and locating the persons responsible for this signal. It at once appeared that the Kalama house with the "dormer window", mentioned in the above signal, was owned by Kuehn.

Subject, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Garson Moore, were taken into custody on December 6, 1941, after the declaration of war against the United States by Germany.

Kuehn was interviewed several times and on December 30, 1941, he submitted a statement, admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul General which were set out in the Consul's telegram of December 3, 1941. He also stated that his home at Kalama and his beach house at Lanikai were the places from which the signals were to have been sent by him. He did not admit ever sending any signals, however, and stated that he had no intention of doing so at the time he furnished them to the Consul General.

In this connection, Kuehn explained that he contacted the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu during November 1941, and offered to assist in obtaining information of interest. The Vice Consul assertedly asked Kuehn for data regarding the number of ships in Hawaiian waters, to which Kuehn replied he would find out. The Vice Consul also asked Kuehn about maneuvers of the United States Fleet in the Pacific, but Kuehn contended he could not ascertain this information. Thereupon, the Vice Consul supposedly requested Kuehn to work out a set of signals whereby the Japanese fleet could be advised as to the number of American ships in Pearl Harbor and their movements. Following this contact, Kuehn with his son, Hans Joachim, age ten, drove to the vicinity of Pearl Harbor and observed the ships there at that time. Three or four days later, subject again contacted the Japanese Vice Consul at which time he also conferred with the Consul General, Nagao Kita. It was on this visit that Kuehn submitted his signalling system. However,

following a consultation between Kita and the Vice Consul, the latter told Kuehn the system was too complicated and requested him to prepare a simpler method. This Kuehn did and delivered the revised system to the Japanese Vice Consul on December 2, 1941. On the same date he furnished written information concerning the number and various types of ships in Hawaiian waters, which data were subsequently determined upon inquiry to be substantially correct.

It is noted that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 cash was delivered by Tadashi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate, Honolulu, to Kuehn at his residence at Kaiama, Kailua, Oahu, T. H.

At the present time Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, is detained at the Immigration Station in Honolulu. It is anticipated that charges will be preferred against Subject in the immediate future by the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army, at Honolulu. These charges will be brought under three counts. The first count will allege a violation of Section 34, Title 50, U. S. C. A., to wit: a conspiracy to violate Section 32, Title 50, in that Otto Kuehn conspired with the Vice Consul, Japanese Consulate, to transmit information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and performed overt acts to culminate the conspiracy. The second count will charge a violation of Section 32, Title 50, U. S. C. A., in that on or about December 2, 1941, Otto Kuehn did transmit information relating to the United States Navy Fleet and national defense of the United States to an agent of a foreign government, to wit, the Imperial Japanese Government. The third count will allege a violation of Section 31, Title 50, U. S. C. A., in that on or about November 27, 1941, in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Oahu, T. H., Otto Kuehn did unlawfully and feloniously obtain information respecting the national defense of the United States, to wit, the number and types of United States Naval ships based at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T. H.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-8-04 BY SP/CC

DEBLY OF TOSKICE  
L-3 B-2  
HERRING  
Attachment

February 16, 1942

## **THE DIRECTOR**

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
with aliases;  
RAPIONAGE (G-J)

For your information, there is attached a summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject.

Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, is presently detained at the Immigration Station in Honolulu and it is anticipated that charges will be preferred against him in the immediate future by the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army.

It is noted that the preferring of charges against Subject was delayed pending the return to Honolulu of Special Agent in Charge Shivers, who is a necessary witness in this case.

Respectfully,

J. J. J.

118 / PARTS I

RECORDED

## INDEXES

65-15114 66  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 18 1942  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

W.B:EDD:mac

146-7-1582

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Re: Friedel Barta Auguste Kuehn  
with aliases  
Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn  
with aliases  
Espionage (G)

Reference is made to the Report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, at Honolulu, T. H., in the above-entitled matter, which refers to the Report of Special Agent R. L. Shivers, dated December 26, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H.

It is requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation transmit to the Criminal Division a copy of the above described Report of Special Agent R. L. Shivers dated December 26, 1941 at Honolulu, T. H.

Respectfully,

*Wendell Berge*  
WENDELL BERGE,  
Assistant Attorney General.

FOR DEFENSE



BUY  
UNITED STATES  
SAVINGS BONDS  
GOVERNMENT

RECORDED

65-1574-67

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
10 MAR 18 1942	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
[Handwritten signatures and initials over the bottom right.]	

memo to last G (G) Berge (cont.)  
ca 1000 330 65-9746  
to state, Ong + G-2 by routing slips

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65-1574-67

April 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL WENDELL BURGE

Re: FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE KUEHN with aliases;  
BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN with aliases;  
ESPIONAGE G and J

Pursuant to the request contained in your memorandum of March 16, 1942, your reference WBB:EDD:mac, 146-7-1382, there is attached a copy of the report of Special Agent in Charge E. L. Shivers, dated December 26, 1941, at Honolulu, T. H., reflecting information regarding the above captioned case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/28/01 BY SP5/CW/MSB  
#265114

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	MAILED 7
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	APR 2 1942 P.M.
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Clegg	FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Mr. Coffey	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

RH 14  
22 APR 7 1942

G 22 APR 7 1942

APR 2 1942

SP5/CW/MSB

14

14

C O P Y

March 4, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was responsible for the preparation of the signaling system used in connection with messages dispatched by Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, setting forth a system of signals to be employed in getting intelligence information to the Japanese fleet.

Kita was court-martialed, charged with transmitting information to Japan regarding our vessels at Pearl Harbor, and on February 21, 1942, was found guilty and sentenced to be shot.

I am advised that the Japanese Consul, who of course was a part of the conspiracy, is being sent to this country and will be presumably exchanged in due course.

The sentence of Kuehn perhaps raises a question of policy about which you may wish to consult the Secretary of State. I am today sending him a copy of this memorandum.

Francis Biddle  
Attorney General

**C O P Y**

March 6, 1942.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

What do you think? I am inclined to think that Kita, on arrival in the continental United States, should be kept incommunicado and not placed with the other Diplomats. Plenty of food but no communications in or out.

F.D.R.

C O P Y

March 6, 1942.

My dear Mr. President:

I am returning to you herewith the memorandum addressed to you by the Attorney General under date of March 4 which you sent me with your memorandum of March 6.

I think the steps which you yourself suggest are wisest under the circumstances. I am afraid that if we undertake criminal proceedings against Kita, the Japanese will immediately retaliate against a number of our own consuls now within their jurisdiction.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

SUMNER WELLES

Enclosure:

To the President from the  
Attorney General, March 4, 1942,  
re Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul  
in Honolulu.

The President,

The White House.



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

March 9, 1942

Ed  
2  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Miss Gandy.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Carson.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Holloman.....  
Mr. McGuire.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....  
*Wm. Emball*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my memorandum addressed to the President under date of March 4, with reference to Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and Nagao Kita. I am also enclosing a copy of the President's memorandum of March 9 to which he attached a copy of a memorandum to the Acting Secretary of State and a copy of the State Department's reply.

These are transmitted for your information.

Francis Biddle  
Attorney General

RECORDED

165-1574-68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
12 MAR 14 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 21 1942

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3/17/42

**C O P Y**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

March 9, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

F. D. R.

10-1074-17

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-02 BY SP500/CB  
#26874

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated February 26, 1942, and to your memorandum dated March 9, 1942, with enclosures, concerning Bernard Julius Otto Kahn and former Japanese Consul General Nagao Kita of Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is noted in the enclosed copy of your memorandum for the President dated March 4, 1948, that you indicate in the second paragraph of that memorandum that "Kita was Court-martialed....". I hasten to respectfully call your attention to the fact that the name Kita was apparently inadvertently transcribed into your memorandum at that point rather than the name Kuwah. As reflected in my reference memorandum, it was Kuwah who was court-martialed and found guilty, and sentenced to be shot. No charges whatsoever were ever placed against Japanese General Kita.

Respectfully,

by Edgar Hauke

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. C.  
TIME 12:50 P.M.  
DATE 3-12-4  
BY 2229

RECEIVED - ROOM 5640  
F B I  
S E C R E T - M I S T I C

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Honolulu, T. H.  
February 23, 1942

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases, ET AL;  
ESPIONAGE - J.

Dear Sir:

The trial of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN before a Military Commission at Honolulu, was begun at 9:30 A.M. February 19, 1942 in the courtroom of United States Federal Judge INGRAM M. STAINBACK.

During the course of the trial which extended through February 21st, the courtroom was closed to all outsiders, the trial being conducted in strictest privacy. Before the announcement of the verdict at 1:30 P.M. February 21, 1942, the courtroom was cleared of everyone with the exception of prosecution and defense counsel, the court reporter and members of the Commission. All there present at the courtroom, upon the pronouncement of sentence, were sworn to secrecy.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5/SL/CH  
+208 7/14

Immediately following the trial [REDACTED] was informed in the closest confidence and unofficially by Colonel THOMAS GREEN, Executive Military Governor, that Subject KUEHN had been convicted on all three counts named in the charges incorporated in the report of [REDACTED], dated January 31, 1942; further, that he had been sentenced to death before a firing squad. Colonel GREEN emphasized that this information could not be officially given out and that same should be restricted to myself.

all  
b6  
b7c

[REDACTED] He specifically requested that Washington not be notified immediately until Commanding General DELOS C. ELMONS of the Hawaiian Department had had an opportunity to be advised of these proceedings, following which he would notify the Honolulu Office so that you might be furnished with the verdict simultaneously with the transmittal of this information to the War Department. It was as a result of these arrangements that my wire of the 22nd was dispatched advising you of this verdict. Following a receipt of your wire of this date requesting [REDACTED] as to what restrictions had been imposed

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7 JUN 6 1942

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Letter to the Director  
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO MUENH,  
with aliases, ET AL;  
ESPIONAGE - J.

- 2 -

2-23-42

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b7c

on the secrecy of the proceedings, [REDACTED] again contacted Colonel GREEN for his comments.

Colonel GREEN stated in his wire to the War Department of the 22nd instant, he had indicated the verdict in this case had been furnished to no one, but suggested that same be transmitted to the Department of Justice at Washington, D. C., since the F.B.I. had been instrumental in the investigation and success of the case. At the same time he had suggested to the War Department that this verdict be taken up with the State Department and White House prior to execution of sentence since reprisals against our own nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

Colonel GREEN is of the opinion that premature publicity might also bring about this result and therefore, he suggested that publicity be avoided for the moment. He suggested however that you might wish to take this matter up directly with Brigadier General LEE of the Military Intelligence Division at Washington or with Major General KRAMER, Judge Advocate General, regarding the issuance of any news releases; that he has no objection following any procedure agreeable to these men. Colonel GREEN did request however that such a contact be discreetly made in such a manner that the War Department would not be cognizant of our previous knowledge of the verdict in this case.

I might state that our relations with Colonel GREEN and his office have been extremely cordial and I therefore feel that every effort should be made to protect the confidence he has placed with [REDACTED] and myself in this matter. b6 b7c

Very truly yours,

R. L. SHIVERS  
Special Agent in Charge.

RLS:mma  
654  
cc: 65-414

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
HONOLULU, T. H.

b6 b7c  
65-4  
March 25, 1942.

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases, ET AL.  
Espionage - J and G.

Dear Sir:

As a matter of interest to the Bureau, in the above-captioned case, attention is directed to an article which appeared on Page 36 of the February 23rd issue of "Time" Magazine, regarding the rise to power of the Chief of the German Gestapo, REINHARD HEYDRICH, whose photograph also appears on the magazine cover.

It is interesting to note that this article reported HEYDRICH extorted from a Prussian official, as a result of letters obtained reflecting correspondence between this official and one GREGOR STRASSER, a recommendation to HEYDRICH HITLER resulting in his appointment to a post with the Munich Elite Guard. Thereafter, it was reported his rise to Chief of the German Gestapo was rapid. It was also mentioned in connection with the blood purge of June 30, 1934, that HEYDRICH supervised the Berlin end of the massacre and "found time to take personal care of GREGOR STRASSER, firebrand adherent of the "Roehm Rebels."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-80 BY SP5/TW  
#F2685714

Attention is directed to the signed statement of OTTO KUEHN, Dated January 1, 1942, contained in the report of ██████████ dated January 5, 1942, entitled JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, HONOLULU, T. H., Espionage, Conf file-J. It will be observed, on page 2 of this statement, KUEHN advised that he and HEYDRICH had both made a bid for a Nazi government position in Munich but that HEYDRICH had been selected. KUEHN also volunteered the information which was incorporated in his statement that he had been in a concentration camp with one OTTO STRASSER, the identity of this individual being unknown to this office. It is thought perhaps GREGOR STRASSER is identical with OTTO STRASSER, referred to by KUEHN.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 APR 1 1942

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1942 14-1000-1

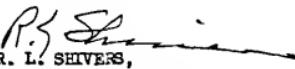
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Land
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McIneran
Mr. M. Clegg
Mr. Quinn Tamm

Director.

3/25/42.

The above has been brought to the Bureau's attention as a matter of interest only, although it tends also to bear out the truth of KUEHN'S statements concerning his activities in Germany.

Very truly yours,

  
R. L. SHIVERS,  
Special Agent in Charge.

*h*

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.  
The following individual was:

NAME:- OTC E. INENI (C-RC-AW)

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP500/93

10 APR 7 1942

65-1574-
NOT RECORDED
S. J. [initials]

*b seven*

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-80 BY SP5/CB**

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- MR. FREDERL CARTA ANDREEF KUEHN (GERMAN)  
ALIAS -- MRS. OTTO KUEHN

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

165-1574

NOT RECORDED
Eb 12-17-41

10 APR 7 1942

*H*  
*even*

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU      Ls TMR      12-17-41

Taken into custody.  
The following individual was:

NAME:- ER RICHARD N RTIN KNIGHT (GARLIC)

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HI AII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5 dlc

10 APR 7 1942

65 - 1574
NOT RECORDED
S. P. H. and H.W.

*b7c*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5/djw/CP/AB

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-17-41

Taken into custody.  
The following individual was:

NAME:- MRS. J. CARSON MOORE (GARDIAN) MRS -- RUTH MOORE;  
ALIAS -- SUSE EAETE RUTH MOORE; RUTH MOORE

PLACE:- TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: 12-17-41

REMARKS:

8 APR 1 1942

65-1574
NOT RECORDED
816 P-1674-14

RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I certify that I have received the following  
Government property for official use:

RECEIVED:

Manual of Rules and Regulations #

RETURNED:

Old Manual of Rules and Regulations #

**READY**

The Government property which you hereby acknowledge  
is charged to you and you are responsible for taking care of  
it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT  
MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

*2*

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:-HONOLULU LETTER 12-14-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-28-01 BY SPSCI/CB

NAME:- MR. FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE KUEHN (GERMAN)

PLACE:-

DATE: 12-12-41

REMARKS:

8 APR 8 1942  
11

65-1574-

Age 36

RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I certify that I have received the following  
Government property for official use:

RECEIVED:

Manual of Rules and Regulations #

RETURNED:

Old Manual of Rules and Regulations #

**READY**

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it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT  
MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Kirby, O.C. K  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-86 BY SOSC/Cde

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-12-41

The following individual was:

Taken into custody.

NAME:- OOTO K KUEHN (GERMAN)

PLACE:-

DATE: 12-12-41

REMARKS:

9 APR 8 1942

65-1574-

APR 10 1942
APR 10 1942

RECEIPT FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I certify that I have received the following  
Government property for official use:

RECEIVED:

Manual of Rules and Regulations #

RETURNED:

Old Manual of Rules and Regulations #

**READY**

The Government property which you hereby acknowledge  
is charged to you and you are responsible for taking care of  
it and returning it when its use has been completed. DO NOT  
MARK OR WRITE ON IT OR MUTILATE IT IN ANY WAY.

Very truly yours,

CUSTODIAL DETENTION APPREHENSION FORM

Reference:- HONOLULU LETTER 12-12-41

Taken into custody.

The following individual was:

NAME:- MRS. J. CARSON MOORE (GERMAN)

PLACE:-

DATE: 12-12-41

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-8-00 BY SP-6/CB/MS

65-1574  
101-B-00000

10 APR 8 1942



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Time 12:15 p.m. April 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: OTTO KUEHN;  
ESPIONAGE - J.

Reference is made to your request to be advised concerning the present status of Kuehn, who has been convicted by a Military Court Martial at Honolulu, Hawaii, and was sentenced to be shot as a Japanese spy.

[REDACTED] made inquiries at the Military Intelligence Division today and was advised that the conviction of Kuehn was referred, as is the general policy, to the office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review. The Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the Court.

The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department. The State Department replied that they would defer to the judgment of the War Department in this regard.

Recently Secretary Stimson also referred this matter to the Attorney General, requesting his advice as to the matter. No reply has been received from the Attorney General.

[REDACTED] stated that he was advised that if a reply is received from the Attorney General indicating that he will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for the early execution of Kuehn.

Respectfully,

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389 AUG 4 1970



FOR DEFENSE  
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

2 MAY 15 1944  
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65-1574-74

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 29 1944	
J. G. [Signature]	

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Land ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Davies ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. McNamee ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Miss Rosalie ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

FLL  
t6  
EFC



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7c  
65-1574

February 16, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
with aliases;  
ESPIONAGE (G-J)

MW

For your information, there is attached a summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject.

Kuehn, with his wife and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, is presently detained at the Immigration Station in Honolulu and it is anticipated that charges will be preferred against him in the immediate future by the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army.

It is noted that the preferring of charges against Subject was delayed pending the return to Honolulu of Special Agent in Charge Shivers, who is a necessary witness in this case.

Respectfully,

D. A. Ladd

Attachment

see 65-1574-53

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-28-01 BY SP-5/cb

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

65-1574-75

REC'D  
17 MAY 3  
U. S. GOVERNMENT

31  
2 MAY 1942



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1942

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Rosen  
Miss Rosalie  
Miss Shultz

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, wae;  
ESPIONAGE (G), (J).

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5/CJL

For your information, there is attached the summary memorandum concerning the above mentioned subject originally submitted to you under date of February 16, 1942, which has been brought up to date as of today.

On February 19, 1942, Kuehn went to trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu following the preferring of charges by the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army alleging a violation of Sections 31, 32 and 34 of Title 50, United States Code Annotated. This Commission on February 21, 1942, returned a verdict of guilty on the above charges and sentenced Kuehn to be shot on the same date. The Military Intelligence Division advised that the conviction was referred as is the general policy to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review, who incidentally upheld the finding of the Court.

The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department who replied that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department and this matter was recently brought to the attention of the Attorney General for his advice. The Military Intelligence Division has advised that if a reply is received from the Attorney General indicating he will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for an early execution of Kuehn.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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65-1574-73  
MAY 3 1942  
17 MAY 3 1942  
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

FOR DEFENSE

BUY  
UNITED  
STATES  
SAVINGS  
BONDS  
AND SERIES  
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339 AUG 4 1970

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. [REDACTED]

Re: OTTO KUEHN  
ESPIONAGE

At the request of [REDACTED] the writer requested [REDACTED] to determine whether or not the Department of Justice had answered the State Department's inquiry with reference to the legality of the court martial of Kuehn in Hawaii.

[REDACTED] has advised the writer that [REDACTED] of the Judge Advocate General's Office has informed him that no answer has been received from the Department of Justice as yet but [REDACTED] believes an answer will be received shortly because the men working on the Kuehn case in the Department of Justice are also working on the [REDACTED] and he believes that this case will stimulate them into making a reply.

Respectfully,

RECORDED

65-1574-74

13  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

memorandum  
7-9-42  
FBI - DC  
[REDACTED]

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DATE 12-86 BY SP5/JL/cb

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330 AUG 4 1970

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

65-1574

July 9, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
was; ESPIONAGE (G) (J)

As you may recall, Kuehn, a German citizen, on February 21, 1942, was convicted of espionage and sentenced to be shot by the Military Commission at Honolulu.

Pursuant to the usual policy, this decision was referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the finding of the Commission and then referred it through Secretary Stimson to the Department of State. The Department of State indicated it would defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding subject's execution, and the decision was then brought to the attention of the Attorney General for his advice. The Military Intelligence Service has indicated if the Attorney General will defer to the judgment of the War Department, arrangements will be made for an early execution of Kuehn.

[REDACTED] of the Military Intelligence Service has been contacted by the Bureau from time to time regarding Kuehn's status, and he has advised that the Judge Advocate General's Office has not as yet received any advice from the Department of Justice regarding the matter. According to [REDACTED] of the Judge Advocate General's Office has expressed the opinion that a decision from the Department of Justice should be forthcoming in the immediate future, inasmuch as the same men considering the Kuehn case are presently tied up on the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] believes that the latter will act as a stimulant for the Department's decision concerning Kuehn.

It is noted that this matter has been before the Department of Justice since April 1942.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd  
RECORDED

FOR DEFENSE



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832 AUG 4 1970

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Holloman  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Harbo  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Gandy

EX-18

b6  
b7c  
AUG 7 1942

Tr. 8-6-42  
65-1574

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Reference is made to my memoranda of January 5, January 19,  
and February 26, 1942, as well as our conversation on March 3, 1942,  
regarding Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn. As you may recall, Kuehn, a  
German alien, on February 21, 1942, was found guilty by the Military  
Commission in Honolulu and sentenced to be shot because of his  
preparation of a signalling system for the Japanese Consulate in  
Honolulu, which was transmitted to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo,  
to be used in furnishing intelligence information to the Japanese  
Fleet.

We have been informed that the decision of the Military  
Commission, pursuant to the usual policy, was referred to the Office  
of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld its finding  
and then referred the matter through Secretary Stimson to the Department  
of State. The Department of State reportedly has indicated it would  
defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding Kuehn's ex-  
ecution, and we understand that the decision was then submitted to you  
for your advice. We have been informed by the Military Intelligence  
Service of the War Department that if you see fit to defer to the  
judgment of the War Department in this matter, arrangements will be  
made for an early execution of Kuehn.

I would appreciate being advised at your earliest convenience  
as to your decision in this matter.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover

Director

RECORDED  
REC'D BY

65-1574-75  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AUG 7 1942  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

16 AUG 8 1042  
370

SENT FROM F. B. I.	3500
TIME	7 14 42
DATE	AUG 7 1942
BY	B

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 3, 1942

*D. J. Ryan*

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Carson.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Kramer.....  
Mr. McGuire.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Mr. Gandy.....

MEMORANDUM TO J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

From: Oscar Cox, Assistant Solicitor General

I shall be grateful if you will arrange to have sent to me your file on Bernard Julius Otto Kuhn, who was recently sentenced to death by a military commission in Hawaii.

*Oscar Cox*



RECORDED

65-1574-76

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7	SEP 15 1942	4
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12-17		

RECORDED 7/9/42

65-1574-76  
for

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. OSCAR COX,  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-01 BY SP-5/CJ/CB

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 3, 1942, in which you requested the file on Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, who was sentenced to death by a military commission at Hawaii on February 21, 1942.

In accordance with your request there are attached hereto the following reports:

Report of [redacted] dated July 27, 1939, at New York City

Report of [redacted] dated August 11, 1939, at San Francisco, California

Report of [redacted] dated September 26, 1939, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated March 22, 1940, at Honolulu, T. I. b6

Report of [redacted] dated March 29, 1940, at Honolulu, T. I. b7c

Report of [redacted] dated May 27, 1940, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated July 20, 1940, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated October 11, 1940, at Honolulu, T. I.

MAILED 12

RECEIVED

Report of [redacted]  
★ SEP 1 1941, at Honolulu, T. I.

dated September 20,  
WEB. 01 1941

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - MVIF 600

26 11 10 #3 WPA

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Memorandum for Mr. George Clegg

Page 2

Report of [redacted] dated  
November 21, 1941, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
December 22, 1941, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
January 5, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
January 15, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
January 22, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
January 26, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated  
January 31, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Report of [redacted] dated February 2,  
1942, at NEW YORK CITY

Report of [redacted] dated  
February 13, 1942, at Honolulu, T. I.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Attachment

b6 b7c  
65-1574  
Transcribed 9

REINHARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12 NOV 2002 BY SP5/C/S

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on the Island of Oahu, the commercial telegraph, radio and wireless companies, at the request of the Honolulu Field Office, furnished it with copies of all messages which had been sent and received by the Japanese Consulate in that city.

The translation of one of these messages dispatched on December 3, 1941, by Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, set forth a complete system of signals to be used in communicating intelligence information to the Japanese.

Investigation has disclosed that Kuehn, who had been the subject of considerable investigation by the Bureau, OHA and C-2, was responsible for the preparation of the signal system.

Kuehn was born at Berlin, Germany, on July 5, 1895, and served in the Imperial German Navy during the First World War. He became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 and claims that he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler, but because of the latter's dislike for Kuehn, Heydrich was given the appointment. Kuehn is a German citizen, is married, and a son named Leopold.

Kuehn, with his wife Friedel and daughter, Ruth Carson Moore, was interned at Honolulu on December 8, 1941. Following his detention, Kuehn admitted his responsibility for the preparation of the mentioned signalling system in a written statement. He advised this had been done at the request of officials of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, and had been furnished to them on December 2, 1941. It has also been determined that Kuehn on one occasion received \$14,000 from a Japanese Consulate official in Honolulu.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ Charges against Kuehn for violation of the Federal Espionage Act  
Mr. E. A. Tamm were preferred by the Judge Advocate General's Department, United States  
Mr. Clerg Army, at Honolulu, T. E., and on February 21, 1942, Kuehn was convicted  
Mr. Clegg by the Military Commission and sentenced to be shot. To date, this  
Mr. Lead sentence has not been carried out.  
Mr. Nichols EX-44  
Mr. Ross On April 21, 1942, Inquiry was made at the Military Intelligence  
Mr. Tracy Division relative to the status of this case and it was determined that  
Mr. Carson the conviction of Kuehn was referred, as is the general policy, to the  
Mr. Coffey office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review and that  
Mr. Hender the Judge Advocate General upheld the findings of the court.  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

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277

The matter was then referred by Secretary Stimson to the State Department, which replied that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department in this regard. Secretary Stimson also referred this case to the Attorney General, requesting his advice as to the matter. To date, no action so far as is known has been taken by the Department in this regard, although in a memorandum dated September 3, 1942 from Assistant Solicitor General Oscar Cox, it was requested that this Bureau's file in this matter be referred to him. Accordingly, all investigative reports submitted have been transmitted to Assistant Solicitor General Cox.

This matter is being closely followed and a memorandum is being directed to Assistant Solicitor General Oscar Cox requesting that the Bureau be promptly advised of any action taken in this case.

65-1574

10-7-42

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. OSCAR COX,  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL

Reference is made to my memorandum to you of September 11, 1942, with which I transmitted reports setting forth the results of the investigation of Bernard Julius Otto Kuhn, who was sentenced to death by a military commission at Hawaii on February 21, 1942, for engaging in espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese.

It would be appreciated if you would promptly advise me of the action which is taken by the Department in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-30-04 BY SP2/CJ/PL

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ledd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Handon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 2

OCT 9 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

65-1574-77

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 14 1942	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

109

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFER TO  
MEMOIRS AND MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

M E M O R A N D U M

October 10, 1942

TO: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
FROM: Oscar Cox  
SUBJECT: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Laird ✓  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Headoo .....  
Mr. Krauser .....  
Mr. McGuire .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm...  
Mr. Nease .....  
Gandy .....  
*Kenneth Stumball*

I appreciate your memorandum of yesterday about the Kuehn case. Before handing down an opinion, we are waiting for the opinion from the Supreme Court on the saboteur case. This is so because, undoubtedly, the Supreme Court will express some views about the powers and jurisdictions of military commissions. In all probability, the Supreme Court opinion will be handed down on Monday, October 12.

We should be ready shortly thereafter with the Kuehn case opinion.

*Oscar Cox*

RECORDED

65-1574-78

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NOV 27 1942

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

65-1574  
11/24/42

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

As you will recall, Bernard Julius Otto Kuhn, a German alien, was convicted of espionage on behalf of the Japanese on February 21, 1942, by a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., which sentenced Kuhn to death.

Thereafter, the findings of the Military Commission were referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the conviction. Through the Secretary of War, the case was then submitted to the Department of State, which deferred to the judgment of the Judge Advocate General's Office. It is understood that thereafter during April of 1942, this matter was submitted to the Department of Justice for an opinion.

The Military Intelligence Service of the War Department has advised that if the finding and sentence of the Military Commission are deferred to by the Department of Justice, arrangements will be made immediately for an early execution of Kuhn.

In accordance with the request of Mr. Oscar Cox, Assistant Solicitor General, all investigative reports in the Kuhn case were submitted to him for consideration on September 11, 1942. Thereafter on October 10, 1942, Mr. Cox advised me by memorandum that prior to handing down an opinion, it was desired that the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dasch sabotage case be reviewed inasmuch as the Supreme Court would undoubtedly express views relative to the powers and jurisdiction of military commissions. Mr. Cox indicated that the Department of Justice would be ready shortly thereafter with the Kuhn case opinion.

RECORDED 65-1574-799  
It is understood that the Supreme Court on October 27, 1942, handed down its opinion in the Dasch sabotage case.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would advise me at your earliest convenience when your opinion in this matter will be forthcoming.

McGuire

Quinn, Tamm

Nasse

a Gandy

160 NOV 3 1942 John Edgar Hoover  
Director



UGO CARUSI  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

This refers to your undated memorandum which reached the Attorney General on November 27, inquiring when the Attorney General's opinion in the case of Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn will be rendered.

You will recall that Kuehn, a German alien, was convicted of espionage by a military commission in Hawaii, and sentenced to death. I am now advised that the sentence has been commuted to fifty years, and that the request for the opinion has been withdrawn.

Consequently, so far as the Department of Justice is presently concerned, the matter is closed.

*Ugo Carusi*  
Executive Assistant to  
the Attorney General



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*[Handwritten marks and signatures over the stamp area]*

b6  
b7c  
65-1574  
December 7, 1942

SAC, Honolulu

Re: ERICH JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
with aliases; et al;  
ESPIONAGE - J and G

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has been advised by memorandum dated November 30, 1942, from the Department that the death sentence received by Kuehn has now been commuted to fifty years.

It has also come to the attention of the Bureau that this commutation has been known to your office. However, the Bureau file fails to reflect the receipt of any communication relative thereto.

It is requested that you promptly advise the Bureau in this regard.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/28/08 BY SP8/CB

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Rosan \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Kramar \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Candy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 3

DEC 8 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

65-1574-81

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 10 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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11-30-1942

CH



JCC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7c  
65-1574

November 24, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was;  
ESPIONAGE - J

Mr. Telson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clapp \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Handon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the present status of this case.

As you will recall, Kuehn was convicted for espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese and sentenced to death by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 21, 1942. In accordance with the usual policy in these matters, the sentence of the Military Commission was referred thereafter to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, which upheld the finding and sentence of the Commission, and then through the Secretary of War the case was referred to the Department of State. The State Department indicated that it would defer to the judgment of the War Department regarding Kuehn's conviction and sentencing, and the matter was then brought to the attention of the Attorney General for an opinion. The Military Intelligence Service has advised that if the Attorney General defers to the judgment rendered, arrangements will be made immediately for the execution of Kuehn. *RECORDED*

As of this date, this matter is still in the hands of the Attorney General. By memorandum to the Director dated September 3, 1942 1942, Mr. Oscar Cox, the Assistant Solicitor General, requested that investigative reports in this case be submitted to him for his consideration. By memorandum dated September 11, 1942, copies of all reports submitted relative to the investigation of Kuehn were transmitted to Mr. Cox. On October 9, 1942, Mr. Cox was requested by memorandum to promptly advise the Bureau of the action which would be taken by the Department in this case. Mr. Cox thereafter replied, stating that prior to handing down an opinion in this matter, his office was awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dasch sabotage case. Mr. Cox indicated that this was necessary inasmuch as the Supreme Court would undoubtedly express some views about the powers of defense and jurisdiction of military commissions, and that the opinion in the Kuehn case would be ready shortly after the Supreme Court acted



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UNITED STATES  
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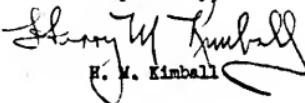
Memo for Mr. Ladd  
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was;  
ESPIONAGE - J

- 2 -

11/24/42

It is understood that the Supreme Court handed down an <sup>b6</sup> opinion in the ~~Kushn~~ sabotage case on October 29, 1942. A memorandum is being transmitted to the Attorney General requesting advice as to when a decision will be forthcoming relative to Kushn's conviction and sentence. It should be noted that this case has been before the Department since April, 1942.

Respectfully,

  
H. M. Kimball

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



b6  
b7c  
55-1574

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

December 3, 1942

*Easton*  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN;  
ESPIONAGE-J

You will recall that Kuehn, a German subject residing in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 21, 1942 was sentenced by a Military Commission at Honolulu to death for his espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In a memorandum dated November 30, 1942, from Mr. Ugo Carusci, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, it is stated that Kuehn's sentence has now been commuted to fifty years, and so far as the Department of Justice is concerned, the matter is closed.

Respectfully,

*D. M. Ladd*  
D. M. Ladd

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-8-00 BY SP5/CB



D.A.  
56 DEC 21 1942 203  
*SP2*

65-1574-83

DEC 5 1942

FBI - WASH D.C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Honolulu, T. H.  
December 15, 1942

65-4

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
A. T. Casper
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Kauder
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
2nd Lt. [unclear]

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases; et al;  
ESPIONAGE -G & J

Dear Sir:

Although to date no official notification has reached this office as to the sentence imposed upon BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, who was tried before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T.H., on February 19, 1942, for violation of Sections 31, as amended, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated.

that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was duly convicted on February 21, 1942, by a Military Commission duly appointed for the Territory of Hawaii by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, of the charges previously stated, and although he was sentenced on February 21, 1942, by the Military Commission to be shot to death with musketry, on October 26, 1942, the sentence was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years and KUEHN was ordered confined to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

No disposition sheet is being forwarded to the Bureau in this matter, although fingerprints for subject were forwarded to the Bureau, as subject's arrest, trial, conviction, and sentence have not as yet been made a matter of public record.

ACCORDING

65-15984

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers  
Special Agent in Charge

COPY IN FILE

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869 AUG 4 1970 Lett & No 12-30-44 OVN

RECORDED 65-1574-0

b6  
b7c  
December 30, 1942

SAC, Honolulu

To: ERNEST JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was; et al.  
ESPIONAGE - G and J

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 7, 1942, in which you were advised that the Bureau had just been informed by memorandum from the Department dated November 30, 1942, that the death sentence received by Kuehn had been commuted to fifty years.

[REDACTED] b6  
b7c  
b7d  
The death sentence received by Kuehn was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years.

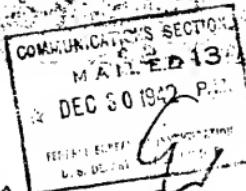
It is requested that you immediately advise whom this information was first received at your office and, if prior to the Bureau's letter of December 7, 1942, why the Bureau was not appropriately advised.

It is also requested that a report setting forth Kuehn's conviction, sentence and commutation of sentence be promptly submitted.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-12-86 BY SP5/CJL

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



11  
28 JAN, 4 1943  
HS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Honolulu, T. H.

FILE NO. 65-4

REPORT MADE AT Honolulu, T. H.	BATE WHEN MADE 12/15/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/19; 12/10/42	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, with aliases: Otto K. Kuehn, Otto Kuhn, Otto K. Kuhn, Mr. Koehn; FRIEDEL BARTA AUGUSTE KUEHN, with aliases: Mrs. Otto K. Kuehn, Mrs. Otto Kuhn, Mrs. Kuehn; Mr. J. CARSON MOORE, nee Ruth Kuehn; EBERHARD MARTIN KUEHN		CHARACTER OF CASE b6 b7c ESPIONAGE - G & J	

CONFIDENTIAL

Synopsis: Subject OTTO KUEHN tried before Military Commission, Honolulu, T. H., 2/19/42, on three counts for violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34 of Title 50, United States Code Annotated. Verdict of guilty returned on 2/21/42 by Military Commission on each count, and subject OTTO KUEHN sentenced to be shot. On 10/26/42 verdict of guilty confirmed and sentence commuted to fifty years' imprisonment by Military Governor. Subject transferred to Fort Leavenworth on 11/20/42.

- C -

RECLASSIFIED BY SP5/CB  
OR 3/12/80

Reference: Report of [Redacted] dated at b6  
Honolulu, T. H., 2/15/42; Bureau letter dated 12/7/42 b7c  
(bureau file #65-1574)

Details: AT HONOLULU, T. H.

Charges and specifications charging BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN with violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated, were served upon subject on February 14, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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INDEXED

⑤ Bureau  
1 Honolulu file 85-414  
5 Honolulu

52 JAN 23 1942

[REDACTED] Office and trial were set before Military Commission for February 19, 1942.

b6 b7c  
On February 19, 1942, the trial of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was held in strict privacy, all outsiders being excluded, before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., at which Major GENERAL WOODRUFF was president and presiding officer. The trial lasted for a period of three days, and on February 21, 1942, a verdict of guilty was rendered by the Military Commission on each of the three charges as set forth in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 31, 1942.

On February 21, 1942, subject was sentenced by the said Military Commission to be shot to death with musketry. On October 26, 1942, the sentence was duly approved by the Military Governor, Lieutenant General DELOS C. ELMONS, of the Territory of Hawaii, but was commuted to confinement at hard labor for a period of fifty years. On November 7, 1942, an order was issued by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, to the Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T. H., and the Warden of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, ordering the commitment of BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, a person convicted of violating Sections 31, as amended, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated, in the Federal Penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A copy of the order of commitment was obtained and is being set forth as follows:

1. Whereas, the above named BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, duly was convicted on February 21, 1942, by the Military Commission duly appointed for the Territory of Hawaii by the Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, of the following charges to wit:

CHARGE I: Violation of Section 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully conspiring to transmit information affecting national defense.

Specification: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, OTOJIRO OKUDA and NAGAO KITA, at Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, during the period commencing on or about the 20th day of November, 1941, up to and including the date of the filing of this charge, did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together and with each other and with other persons whose names are unknown, to commit an offense against the United States of America, to wit, the offense of unlawfully and feloniously, with intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely Japan, communicating, delivering and transmitting, and attempting to communicate, deliver and transmit, to a foreign government, to wit, the Imperial Japanese Government, documents, codes, sketches, plans, lists and writings relating to the national defense and the movements and positions of the several

units of the United States Fleet (Section 32, Title 50, U.S.C.), that is to say that during the period and at the place above set forth BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, OTOJIRO OKUDA and NAGAO KITA did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together and with each other and with other persons whose names are unknown, with the intent and reason to believe that the information to be transmitted relative to national defense was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely Japan, to communicate, deliver and transmit to a foreign government, namely the Imperial Government of Japan, certain information relative to national defense and to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet by means of a plan and system of signals which was to be prepared by BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN and submitted to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, which would give a concise method of transmitting to the Imperial Government of Japan and its naval and military representatives information relative to national defense and the movements and locations of the battle force, scouting fleet, aircraft carriers and other units of the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

That thereafter and during the existence of said conspiracy one or more of said conspirators hereinafter mentioned by name did the following overt acts in furtherance of and to effect the object of said conspiracy aforesaid:

OVERT ACTS

(1) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 26th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did make a trip to the Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii.

(2) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 29th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did prepare a plan for transmittal of information relative to the United States Fleet.

(3) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 30th day of November, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet.

(4) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 30th day of November, 1941, OTOJIRO OKUDA advised BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN at the Japanese Consulate that his plan for transmittal of information relative to the United States Navy was too complicated, and instructed him to prepare a simpler plan.

(5) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 1st day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did prepare a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the movements and positions of the several units of the United States Fleet.

(6) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 2nd day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a plan for the transmittal of information relative to the United States Fleet units and their movements.

(7) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 2nd day of December, 1941, BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did deliver to OTOJIRO OKUDA at the Japanese Consulate, 1714 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, T. H., a list showing the number and type of naval vessels in Pearl Harbor, T. H.

(8) At Honolulu, T. H., on or about the 3rd day of December, 1941, NAGAO KITA did transmit a plan and system of signals previously prepared by BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN to the Foreign Minister of the Imperial Japanese Government at Tokio, Japan (Section 34, Title 50, U.S.C.)

CHARGE II: Violation of Section 31, as amended, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully obtaining information affecting national defense.

Specification: In that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did, at Pearl Harbor, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on or about November 28, 1941, for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the national defense with intent and reason to believe that the information to be obtained was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely, Japan, unlawfully and feloniously obtain information concerning vessels connected with the national defense, to wit, battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, owned and constructed by the United States and under the control of the United States and of its officers and agents, in violation of Section 31, as amended, Title 50, United States Code Annotated.

CHARGE III: Violation of Section 32, Title 50, United States Code Annotated; unlawfully disclosing information affecting national defense.

Specification: In that BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN did, at Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on or about December 2, 1941, with intent and reason to believe that it was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely, Japan, unlawfully and feloniously communicate, deliver, transmit, and attempt to communicate, deliver and transmit, to a foreign government, namely, The Imperial Government of Japan, and to the military and naval forces

within a foreign country, namely, Japan, and to representatives, officers, agents, employees, subjects and citizens thereof, information relating to the national defense of the United States, to wit, information relating to and concerning vessels, to wit, United States battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines connected with the national defense, at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, their positions, locations, and movements, in violation of Section 32, Title 50, United States Code Annotated.

2. And, whereas, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN duly was sentenced upon said conviction of said charges on said February 21, 1942, by said Military Commission, to be shot to death with musketry;

3. And, whereas, on October 26, 1942, the said sentence duly was approved by the undersigned Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii but was commuted to confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years; and whereas it appears necessary to the undersigned, as the said Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, that the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN be confined in The United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, to serve said sentence as commuted as aforesaid;

4. Now, therefore, you, the said Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, hereby are ordered to deliver, or cause to be delivered, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN to the Warden, The United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, for the purpose of confining him, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, in the said United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, to satisfy the said sentence of confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years so imposed by the said Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii.  
HEREOF FAIL NOT.

THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII:  
TO: The Warden of The United States Penitentiary,  
Leavenworth, Kansas.

BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, duly having been convicted and sentenced in the manner and form aforesaid,

You hereby are ordered to receive the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN in The United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas from the said Provost Marshal, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, and safely keep and confine him, the said BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, in the said United States Penitentiary and cause the said sentence of confinement at hard labor for fifty (50) years to be fully executed. HEREOF FAIL NOT.

/s/ DELOS C. BIMMINS  
Lieutenant General, United States Army,  
Military Governor of the Territory of Hawaii.

On November 19, 1942, it was ascertained that subject OTTO KUEHN was to be transported from the Territory of Hawaii to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on November 20, 1942. Arrangements were made with [REDACTED] Contact Office, Military Intelligence Division, Hawaiian Department, in order that subject might again be interviewed. Subject was reinterviewed over the entire matter by [REDACTED] and the writer on that date. Subject was very willing to discuss his associations with the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu. However, little additional information not previously reported was obtained.

KUEHN reiterated all information previously reported relative to his associations and dealings with the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, T. H., and still insisted that he had made no additional contacts with them, nor had he at any time used any of the signals previously outlined to convey information relative to United States Fleet movements. He insisted that the money he had received, though possibly conveyed to him by members of the Japanese Consulate staff, had come [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tokyo, Japan, and was not in payment for any services rendered the Japanese, but was a final payment on property transferred [REDACTED] by his wife. KUEHN insisted that he did not know the money was delivered by a member of the Consulate staff, but stated it was still his belief that it had come to him from Japan on the "TATUMARU," and had been delivered by some member of the ship's crew.

KUEHN corrected his previous statement that the individual with whom he had been in a concentration camp in Germany was one OTTO STRASSER, and stated that GREGOR STRASSER was the correct name of the individual with whom he had been confined. He stated that there were two STRASSERS in Germany, and that he was acquainted with both. However, GREGOR STRASSER was the individual referred to on Page two of his statement, contained in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, entitled: "JAPANESE ACTIVITIES, HONOLULU, T. H.; ESPIONAGE; CONFILE-J."

When questioned concerning conversations between his wife, FRIEDEL, [REDACTED] two or three weeks prior to December 7, 1941, relative to building a bomb shelter, he stated that he recalled some such conversation but that he himself could not attach any significance to this. KUEHN stated that his wife, FRIEDEL, had from time to time during the past two years stated that the United States would eventually become involved in the world conflict which was then going on, and insisted that it would be possible to bomb the Territory of Hawaii. She always regarded Japan as the United States' greatest enemy, and from time to time in the past she has suggested the possibility of constructing a bomb shelter at their home in Kailua. KUEHN stated that during the summer of 1941 she had suggested to him on several occasions that he convert his small fish pond into a bomb shelter. KUEHN still insisted that he had no previous information relative to the attack on the Territory of Hawaii, December 7, 1941.

and stated that until it actually occurred, he had never been able to believe that the United States and Japan would ever become engaged in war.

No additional information not previously reported could be elicited. KUEHN expressed concern for his wife, FRIEDEL, and children, and appeared quite cheerful about receiving a commutation of his sentence to fifty years. He stated that he had a grandmother in Germany who had lived to the age of 94, and he believed he would live to serve his entire sentence and at least two years beyond.

On November 20, 1942, KUEHN was removed from detention quarters at the Immigration and Naturalization Station, Channel Street, Honolulu, T. H., by officers of the Provost Marshal's Office, for transportation to the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Inasmuch as all logical investigative leads have been exhausted, and subject HERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN has been duly tried before a Military Commission in Honolulu, T. H., found guilty, and sentenced to serve a period of fifty years in the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and has been transferred from the Territory of Hawaii, this case is being closed.

- CLOSED -

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

December 23, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated December 17, 1942, from [REDACTED] P196 Handled 12-29 R&P

Letter dated December 13, 1942, from [REDACTED] P197 Handled 12-29 R&P

12/ Letter dated December 16, 1942, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

P198 Evidence return 12-31/42 REL

Very truly yours

*Walter A. Hunter*  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

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INDEXED

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75-1574-86

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11 JAN 5 1943

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EX-21

50 FEB 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED 65-1574-86

EX Date: December 31, 1942

To: SAC Honolulu

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuske

(Received December 28, 1942)

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE**

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

Specimens: Q196 [REDACTED] from Subject. B7c

Findings:

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. E. A. Tamm <sup>ENCLOSURE</sup> Photographic copy of Q196.

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

★ JAN 1 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 27 1943

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Honolulu, T. H.  
January 6, 1943

65-4

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases; et al;  
ESPIONAGE - G & J

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 30, 1942, requesting that the Bureau be advised when information that KUEHN's sentence was commuted to fifty years' imprisonment was first received by this office.

Bureau letter dated December 7, 1942, advising that a memorandum had been received from the Department stating that KUEHN's sentence had been commuted to fifty years' imprisonment was received by this office on December 9, 1942. On December 10, 1942, the following day [REDACTED]

A report setting forth KUEHN's conviction, sentence and commutation of sentence was submitted to the Bureau on December 15, 1942.

Yours truly,

R. L. Shivers  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

65-1574-87

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DEPARTMENT OF JUST.  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

December 10, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated December 5, 1942, [REDACTED]

Letter dated December 5, 1942, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated December 8, 1942, from Otto  
Kuehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED - 12

#65-1574

95525  
95526  
95527

SECRET

65-41343

Date: January 13, 1943  
To: SAC, Honolulu, Hawaii  
RECORDED 65-1574-48

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Subject: Otto Kudm (65-1574)  
Prisoners' Mail.

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens:

65-41343 Q4864 and Q4865. Envelope and letter of ~~the~~ <sup>to</sup> letter to Mrs. ~~Pris~~ <sup>Pris</sup> from Otto Kudm.

Findings:

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE SECRET

55 FEB 6 1943

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66-1874

Date: January 23, 1943

To: SAC, Honolulu

**SECRET**

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Subject: Otto Kuhn  
Prisoners' Mail. Received 1/20/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens: Q512 writer from subject #5 Mrs. Friedel Knahn.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

#### **Findings:**

The original evidence has been returned to Mr. Walter A. Felt, FBI Laboratory, Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. Tolson Malacca - Postscript of 0612

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Glass

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tamm

Ms. Class

Mr. Call

Ms. Harlan

Mr. Kaspar

Ms. Maguire

Ms. H. 2. 1. 1

Mn. Quinap.

Ms. No. 222

RECORDED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 27 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 15  
★ JAN 26 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**SECRET**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

65-1574  
 Date: January 29, 1943  
 To: SAC, Honolulu

**SECRET**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Subject: Otto Kuehn  
 Prisoners' Mail: Received 1/26/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance.

Specimens: Q513 SWB letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
 GANDI  
 DECLASSIFY ON  
 8/12/89 M/H  
 #2128

Findings:

The original evidence has been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. (S)

Mr. Tolson Enclosure - Photostat of Q513.  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm  
 Mr. Clegg  
 Mr. Glavin  
 Mr. Ladd  
 Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Carson  
 Mr. Coffey  
 Mr. Handon  
 Mr. Kramer  
 Mr. McGuire  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm  
 Mr. Nease  
 Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION	
MAILED 6	RECORDED
★ JAN 30 1943 P.M.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

65-1574-90  
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 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**SECRET**3+**CONFIDENTIAL**

P  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 22, 1943

SECRET

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re [REDACTED]

AUERBACH, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated January 21, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated January 20, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated January 17, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated January 21, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,  
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/-

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

65-1574-91

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 2, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L 65-1574

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

53 Letter dated January 1, 1943,

48 Letter dated December 29, 1942, from

12/ Letter dated January 1, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, 0331  
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

*Walter A. Hunter*  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

6 JAN 11 1943

W. C. Clegg - Hoover - Gil Scott - Federal Bureau of Investigation

Specimens of hair and blood were received 1/6/43  
from the Bureau of the above-named individual.  
Whether specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for  
anything of significance.

Specimen # 13231  
Subject to Mrs. Frieda Kuska.

Findings

Exposure & Photo of Q321.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Waddell  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Barron  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
M A T L E D I  
JAN 8 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



P  
y DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

February 12, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

O KUHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated Feb. 11, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 10, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 9, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Feb. 7, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated Jan. 12, 1943, from Mrs. Frieda [REDACTED],  
Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., to Otto Kuhn,  
No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

8/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

NO. 4

EX-37

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65-1574

Date: February 19, 1943

To: SAC, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Otto Kuehn  
Prisoners' Mail.

Received 2/17/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Specimens: QB56 [REDACTED] from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

CLASSIFIED BY: DOROTHY DODD  
DECLASSIFY ON: 8-13-86  
#2058714

Findings: [REDACTED]

MR. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm **COMMUNICATIONS SECTION**  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey **MAILED 11**  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd **X FEB 20 1943 P.M.**  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen **FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Herbe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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QB56. INDEXED

N173

65-1574-95

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 23 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~77 FEB 26 1943 <sup>303</sup>

Ex-1000  
WV 1-2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

January 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated January 9, 1943,

53

5509

Letter dated January 12, 1943, from

48

5569

Letter in German dated September 27, 1942, with  
enclosure also a letter in German dated September 18, 1942,

10

9511

121 Letter dated January 11, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,  
Honolulu, T. H.

Q512

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

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Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

February 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re; [REDACTED]  
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated February 18, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated February 19, 1943, from Otto Fuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Fuehn, Sand Island,  
Honolulu, F. H.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

65-1374-97

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

65-1574-97

Date: February 26, 1943

To: SAC, Honolulu

RECORDED

2001

**SECRET****CONFIDENTIAL**

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Subject: Otto Kuehn  
 Prisoners' Mail.

Received 2/26/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

CLASSIFIED BY: 2001 DATE: 8-13-87  
DECLASSIFY ON: 8-13-2037 BY: #268714

Specimen: Q959 Letter from subject to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn.

Findings: [REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson Enclosure - Photostat of Q959.

Mr. E. A. Tamm -

Mr. Clegg -

Mr. Coffey -

Mr. Glavin -

Mr. Ladd -

Mr. Nichols -

Mr. Rosen -

Mr. Tracy -

Mr. Carson -

Mr. Hendon -

Mr. McGuire -

Mr. Mumford -

Mr. Harbo -

Mr. Quinn Tamm -

Mr. Nease -

Miss Gandy -

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED 3  
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 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55 MAR 10 1943

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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

February 26, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUERN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated February 25, 1942 (should be 1943), from

Letter dated February 25, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island,  
Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

S/ W.A.Hunter  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

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63-1574-97X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE GROWN  
OTHERWISE

Date: March 3, 1943

To: SAC [Honolulu]

**CONFIDENTIAL****SECRET**

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Subject: Otto Kuehn  
 Prisoners' Mail. 3/3/43

Correspondence of the above-named individual has been submitted to the Bureau from the Penal Institution of incarceration. These specimens have been examined in the Technical Laboratory for anything of significance and have been returned to.

Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, U. S. Penitentiary  
 Leavenworth, Kansas  
 Specimens: Q1029 Letter from Otto Kuehn to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
 DECLASSIFY ON [REDACTED]

S-1-B-8  
 #265714

Findings:

Enclosure: Photostatic copies of specimen Q1029.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Handon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
★ MAR 4 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

285-1574-95  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 5 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**SECRET****CONFIDENTIAL**

MAR 10 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES FENITIORY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

March 8, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: O. KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated March 7, 1943, from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Frieda Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H.

Very truly yours

*W. A. Hunter*  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Evidence Returned

3/16/43 74  
121

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LETTER  
O. KUEHN  
MARCH 18, 1943

RECORDED  
MARCH 18, 1943

SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED  
MARCH 18, 1943

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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MARCH 18, 1943

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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MARCH 18, 1943

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FILED  
MARCH 18, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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y  
Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: █  
KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution and the following listed letters:

Letter dated February 13, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., to Otto Kuehn, No.  
59603-L

Letter dated March 12, 1943, from █

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Enclo.

RECORDED

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EX-32

1574-100

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 22 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

o man  
p Department of Justice  
y U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated February 23, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Camp Sand Island, Honolulu, T. H., to the above-named inmate.

Very truly yours,

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Enccl.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 22 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN? Otto, 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 15, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
U. S. Immigration Camp, Sharp Park, San Francisco,  
California, to the above-named inmate.

Letter dated March 21, 1943, from the above-named  
inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Sand Island, Honolulu,  
T. H.

Very truly yours

S/  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
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SERIALIZED  
FILED  
APR 29 1943  
FBI - LEAVENWORTH

65-1574-102

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 29 1943	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL FILE

53 APR 3 1943



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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

X  
65-1574

March 26, 1943

**SECRET**

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY  
ROOM 7643

RE: Otto Kuehn  
Prisoner's Mail

Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Gandy  
*Wright*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Reference is made to a letter dated March 15, 1943, from  
Mrs. Frieder Kuehn to the above subject. This letter was forwarded  
to the Bureau by Mr. Walter A. Hunter, Warden, U. S. Penitentiary,  
Leavenworth, Kansas, under date of March 22, 1943.

CLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]  
DATE: [redacted]  
DECLASSIFY ON: 8-12-86  
FILE NUMBER: AF268-14

COPIES DESTROYED  
339 AUG 4 1970



SECRET  
O APR 6<sup>348</sup> 1943

RECORDED 65-1571-1C  
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INDEXED  
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Respectfully,  
*W. G. Blackburn*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 8, 1943

Technical Laboratory  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your censorship and return to us are the following communications:

From

To

O 59603-L Kuehn

Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Camp Seagoville,  
Texas

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10

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WALTER A. HUNTER  
Harden

SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
APR 16 1943

RECORDED

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INDEXED 65-1574-104

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EX-55

FILED APR 16 1943

APP 16 1943

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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53 APR 21 1943

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Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

April 17, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 9th, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

S/

W. A. Hunter

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Enclo.

RECORDED

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65-1574-103

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 20 1943	APR 20 1943
REMAILED ON ORIGINAL	

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52 MAY 5 1943

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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 24, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 23, 1943, from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated March 20, 1943, from [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated March 22, 1943, from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated March 22, 1943, from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated March 21, 1943, from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated March 21, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel  
Kuehn, Box P, Hays Park, San Mateo, California,  
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

D-3

65-1574-116  
Water M. Hunter-SIGNS  
Harden

APR 1 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Encls.

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Department of Just'  
UNITED STATES PENITEN  
Leavenworth, Kansas

March 30, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

To: [REDACTED]

OKURN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated March 27, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 25, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 24, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 26, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 28, 1943, from Otto Kuhn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friederike Kuhn, U. S.  
Immigration Camp, Sharp Park, San Francisco,  
California

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A.  
Warden

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

652or 1524-108

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APR 6 1943	
FBI - LEAVENWORTH	

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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 5, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]

Letter dated March 30, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
Intermediate Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas,  
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
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65-1574-718

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 14 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2 APR 23 1943

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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas  
April 13, 1943

*fb*  
Technical Laboratory  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: [REDACTED]  
KUEHN, Otto #59603-L  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 9, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 12, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, #59603-L,  
named above, to Mrs. Frieda Kuehn, Internment Federal Detention  
Station, Seagoville, Texas.

*Seagoville*  
Letter dated April 13, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

S/

WALTER A. HUNTER  
Warden

Encls.



65-1574-109  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
APR 21 1943  
U. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

b6 b7c  
January 22, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS

RE: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
with aliases, et al  
ESPIONAGE - G and J

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quian Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Bashm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The report of [redacted] dated December 15, 1942, at Honolulu reports that subject was convicted of espionage before a Military Commission in Honolulu and his death sentence commuted to fifty years.

Although military authorities assisted in the prosecution of this case the subject was tried under the Federal Espionage Statutes and the prosecution was participated in by the United States Attorney.

ACTION TAKEN

This conviction and the accompanying sentence of 50 years has been recorded by the Statistical Section among the regular statistics (not as Military Court statistics).

Respectfully,

R. T. Harbo

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-8-06 BY SP5/CB/MS  
#268744

FOR DEFENSE



56 JUL 20 1943

RECORDED

65-1574-11C  
E B T  
26 MAY 27 1943  
[Signature]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

b6 b7c  
65-1574

January 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases, et al;  
ESPIONAGE - G and J

Reference is made to the routing slip of  
Assistant Director L. B. Nichols attached to a memorandum  
dated January 22, 1943, regarding Kuahn, asking, "How about  
some publicity on this?"

As you may recall, the result of Kuahn's conviction,  
according to the Honolulu Field Division, is highly con-  
fidential and it was desired that no publicity be released  
regarding it. An Interesting Case write-up and a press  
release have been prepared on this matter since August 12,  
1942, awaiting authorization for release.

ACTION

This matter will be personally discussed with  
SAC Shivers, who is presently attending In-Service Training  
School.

Respectfully,

RECORDED



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Reeves  
JUL 19 1943  
107

CC-287

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nesse \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Basham \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

65-1574-111  
24 MAY 27 1943

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Department of Justice  
FED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 20, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Bernard Julie Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 18, 1943, from [REDACTED] b6 b7c

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 14, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel  
Kuehn, Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to  
Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
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INITIALS OF ORIGINAL

65-1574-112

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 27 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

51 MAY 12 1943

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Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

April 21, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

O KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following lastest letters:

Letter dated April 20, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 17, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated April 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment  
Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours

S/

W. A. Hunter

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

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EX-51 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
APR 29 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

It has also been discussed this matter with [redacted]  
and he advised me today that the Secretary to the Governor of Hawaii in  
Washington and apparently has been approached by the Bureau of Public  
Relations with reference to this question. [redacted] has been ad-  
vised by the Bureau of Public Relations that the administration cannot be  
involved in this matter.

It is apparent the feeling of the Army representatives  
in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Pearl Harbor case was so  
closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster they do not desire to make  
the release at the present time for fear another one and one will be  
raised over Pearl Harbor. For that reason [redacted] suggested that  
the only recourse he could see would be for the Bureau representative in  
Hawaii to attempt to secure the necessary clearance from General Emmons,  
the Commander of the Pacific Department.

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b7C - 1574-11  
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24 MAY

RECORDED

54 JUL 21 1943

In view thereof, I would like to suggest that the attached press release be cleared by MR. Nichols with OWI and in the event they approve of this release that it then be cleared through Gilford of the Department. I believe that it would be particularly desirable for this release to be released at the present time in view of the known sentiment existing relative to the Japanese.

Respectfully,

D. M. LEAD

Attachment

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE April 24, 1943

65-1574

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. Tamm

b6  
b7c

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN,  
with aliases, et al;  
ESPIONAGE - G and J.

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Giavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

You will recall that Kuehn was tried before a Military Commission at Honolulu, T. H., on February 19, 1942, for violation of the Espionage Statutes. He was found guilty and sentenced to death with musketry. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted by the Military Commission at Hawaii to hard labor for a period of fifty years and Kuehn was ordered confined at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

As you know, the facts of this case, the conviction and the resulting sentence of the subject have never been given any publicity because of the fact that the Army authorities at Honolulu had requested that the matter be kept confidential. Although this case was tried before a Military Commission, the investigation was handled by the Honolulu Office of the Bureau in conjunction with G-2 authorities.

With a view towards releasing publicity on this matter, [REDACTED] contacted Special Agent in Charge Shivers on January 27, 1943, when he was attending an In-Service Training Course, for the purpose of ascertaining the present attitude of the Honolulu Army authorities regarding publicity and also to obtain his opinion as to whether publicity on this case could be released at that time. Mr. Shivers said that he could see no objection to releasing publicity but that before any release could be made by the Bureau it would, of course, be necessary to clear the matter through appropriate Army authorities. He further stated that the matter could best be handled by conferring with Army authorities in Washington rather than in Honolulu.

By memorandum of January 27, 1943, a summary of these facts was set forth with the recommendation that the matter be referred to the Liaison Section, which should contact the appropriate Army authorities and determine whether there was any objection to releasing publicity. This recommendation was approved and referred to the Liaison Section for action. The Liaison Section has presented this matter to the Army authorities on several occasions. The Army claims to still have this matter under consideration and has not rendered a decision to date.

RECORDED

65-1574-113

53 JUL 27 1943 (AS)

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM - NOT TO BE SENT TO FILES SECTION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02/26/06 BY SP5/cb/s

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Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

April 29, 1943

JM

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

Φ KUHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 24, 1943,

Letter dated April 27, 1943, to Mrs. Frieder<sup>b6</sup> Kuehn,  
Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas; from  
Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L <sup>a62c</sup>

Very truly yours

8/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Ends.

RECORDED & INDEXED

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65-1574-114	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 8 1943 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL	

53 MAY 14 1943

Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 3, 1943

T  
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED] KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated April 27, 1943, from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Letter dated Easter Sunday from Mrs. Frieda Kuehn,  
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

Warden A. Hunter

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Ends.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

65-1574-114  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAY 13 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

310  
MAY 21 1943

Department of Justice

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

Leavenworth, Kansas

May 6, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED] KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated May 2, 1943, from American Red Cross,  
Leavenworth, Kansas. [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 3, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas, to Otto  
Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Letter dated May 4, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L,  
to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal Detention Station,  
Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours

S/

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Enclos.

DEPT OF JUSTICE  
LEAVENWORTH  
MAY 6 1943  
RECORDED & INDEXED  
SEARCHED  
FILED  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

65-1574-114X2  
RECORDED & INDEXED

65-1574-114X2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 17 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

M. E. GILFOND  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Department of Justice  
Washington

CONFIDENTIAL

May 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

Attached is a preliminary draft of the story by OWI on the Kuehn case. I re-drafted the first few paragraphs to give it a stronger lead and to tie in German and Japanese espionage. Otherwise, it is a simple straightforward story, which is probably the best way to present it since it is such a bang-up story anyway.

If you could expedite clearance on this, OWI would be very grateful since they are extremely enthusiastic about it and would like to go after Army clearance as soon as possible. For your information, they plan to have [redacted] personally put it to the Army big-wigs.

The story would be helped tremendously by some photographs. I wonder if you can supply pictures of any of the following: Kuehn, Mrs. Kuehn, their daughter, their house (and particularly the corner window used for signaling), or the beauty parlor mentioned in the story. Any or all of these, or any additional photographs, would give the story a terrific boost.

APPROVED by Mr. Ladd

Approved  
by Mr. Ladd

CHARLES MALCOLMSON  
Acting Director of Public Relations

Enclosure

Original  
Rebuned 5  
Malcolmson



52 JUL 1943

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Averre	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Mansfield	
Mr. Starkes	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Candy	

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DATE 4-19-55  
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65-1574-115  
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25 MAY 27 1943

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, OWI revealed that Bernard Julius Otto Kushn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States Fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941.

Kushn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands, was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story which is made public for the first time today, is a tale of treachery that is both devious and direct. It involves signals flashed by "a light in Lanikai beach house at night". It involves "a light in dormer window of Kalama house". It involves the destruction of American ships and the death of American men.

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, Special Agents <sup>representatives</sup> of the FBI succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain <sup>messages</sup> <sub>hitherto unavailable messages</sub> <sup>to Inter-</sup> <sup>1941 INTEC AGENCIES</sup> which had been exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo.

65-1074-115-

In translation, one of these messages revealed that on December 3, Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the F.B.I. had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by a man who went by the name of Otto Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and they had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the F.B.I. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the F.B.I. was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

F.B.I. Agents apprehended Kuehn and his wife December 8, 1941, on the authority of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department who, immediately following the declaration of war against the United States, had ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary detention.

When they were first picked up the Kuehns, according to F.B.I. reports, flatly denied that they had ever had any negotiations with the Japanese Government. But increasing evidence from the F.B.I. confused their stories and on December 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a

statement admitting that he had prepared a system of signals for the Japanese Consul-General which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his fateful message of December 5.

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, is as follows:

Sometime during the month of November, 1941, he went to Motojirō Okuda, Japanese Vice-Consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. He, Kuehn, declared that Okuda requested him first to get the information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and second, to devise a system of signals by which this information could be imparted to the Japanese fleet.

Kuehn, according to the story he told the F.B.I. agents, went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which could be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

But the Japanese officials thought the system too complicated. Vice-Consul Okuda, according to the report, told him to come back with a simpler system. Kuehn came back, on December 2, with his revised and simplified system. He also handed over to Okuda a written tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000. in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by Tadasu Norimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulat

Kuehn went on trial February 19, 1942. The technical charges were violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. He was found guilty on each of the charges, was but sentenced to be shot, /later had his sentence <sup>waived</sup> commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipmen aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

Following the Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about 6 months of this he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munchen, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbel.

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I. and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 14, 1936 and February 7, 1938, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

Mrs. Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold Kuehn, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
**BERNARD KUEHN**

**PART 4 OF 7**

**FILE: 65-1574**

SUBJECT KUEHN

FILE NUMBER 65-1574 SECTION 4

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

65  
1574

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

X DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

SECTION 4  
SERIALS 115-140

Transfer-Call 421

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1943

TO: Mr. James Allen

FROM: George H. Lyon *GHL*

I have been asked several questions about a prisoner reportedly now in Leavenworth, Kansas. His name is either Otto Kuehn or Otto Kuhne. My informants say that he is incarcerated in Leavenworth after having been implicated in a conspiracy leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

I also am informed that the Department of Justice has all the facts in this story. It would be very helpful to the News Bureau's program if we could obtain the facts from Justice and issue a release immediately. Do you want to see what you can do to get us the story?



65-1574-116

RECORDED

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1943

GILFOND  
Room 5119

Mr. M. E. Gilfond  
Director of Information  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gil:

If the facts referred to in the attached memorandum are as interesting as I have been told they are, this story would be of extraordinary value to us.

I wonder if you would do everything possible to track it down and see if the facts cannot be made public.

Sincerely,

*JAC*  
James Allen  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Operations

Enclosure



65-1574-116

ENCLOSURE

M. E. GILFOND  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Department of Justice  
Washington

*Mo X*  
May 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

The enclosed note from Jim Allen and memo from Lyon to Allen are self-explanatory. I, too, have heard some talk about this person.

Since Hawaii went under marshal law immediately after Pearl Harbor, I should imagine the Army had a good deal to do with the case. For that reason, I think we better caution the OWI that clearance will have to be gotten from the Army as well as from this Department. Our general agreement with OWI is that when any agency other than our own is involved, OWI does the releasing and not us. The reason for this is to check with the other agency or agencies involved both on accuracy and advisability of release. I think the first thing we should do is put the facts down on paper and send them to Jim Allen as a confidential memo. Once he has the facts, I am sure he will be in a much better position to determine whether the information should be made available to the public.

If you will submit to me, therefore, an official memo on this case, I will transmit it to Mr. Allen.

If for any reason the FBI thinks the information should not be made public, please so state and we will present those arguments to OWI.

*file*  
M. E. GILFOND

*749*  
65-1574-116

F B I  
26 MAY 24 1943



*Mo X*  
Let 26-12-37  
*Mo X*

RECORDED & INDEXED

I see no reason why full  
should not be made public  
but war Dept approval should  
be obtained because the result of  
the Bureau's investigation were  
disposed of by a military court

Eov 3/1/43.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED BY 5/25/2012 DATE 8

65-1574  
tr 5-12-43

RICHARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, with aliases  
Otos E. Koch, Otto Koch, Otto K. Koch,  
Mr. Koch  
SEPTIMAGE

On the morning following the perfidious Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain messages exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, T. H., and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo which theretofore had been unavailable. The translation of one of these messages revealed that on December 3, 1941, Nagai, Ito, the Japanese Consul General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. Among the signals agreed upon were "a light in Lamont beach house at night - -" and "a light in corner window of Kalama house - -".

Upon checking the houses in Kalama, which is a comparatively small community located at Kalama, Oahu, T. H., Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located a house with a corner window. It was determined that this residence was owned and occupied by an individual named Otto Kuehn and his wife, Friedel, German nationals, who had been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and concerning whom considerable investigation had been conducted by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During these inquiries, it was learned that the Kuehns, in addition to their residence in Kalama, Mr. Tolson, Mr. E. A. Tamm, maintained a beach house at Lanikai.

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gleivany \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Henden \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Following the declaration of war against the United States by Germany on December 6, 1941, the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary custodial detention. Pursuant to this command, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the same date apprehended Kuehn and his wife.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
D-49

65-1574-116  
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26 MAY 24 1943

At first the Kuehn steadfastly denied acting in behalf of the Japanese Government. However, when confronted with the evidence which had been developed through vigorous investigation, Kuehn on December 30, 1941, furnished a signed statement admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul General, which the latter dispatched to Tokyo in his message on December 3, 1941. Kuehn explained that sometime during November, 1941, he contacted Otojirō Okuda, the Japanese Vice Consul at Honolulu, and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information of interest respecting the national defense of the United States. In accepting this proffered aid, Okuda reportedly requested Kuehn to secure general data regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor and then devise a system of signals in order that this information might be imparted to the Japanese fleet. Pursuant to this request, Kuehn, accompanied by his ten-year-old son, Max Jonathan, drove to the vicinity of Pearl Harbor for the purpose of observing the American vessels moored there at that time. Three or four days later Kuehn again called at the Japanese Consulate and conferred with Elta and Okuda. During this visit, Kuehn submitted a system of signalling which could be used by the Consulate in order to furnish information relative to the types and number of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as those preparing to leave and those which had already departed. After considering the particular system, the Japanese were of the opinion that it was too complicated and requested that a simpler system be devised. In fact, a specific request of this nature was made to Kuehn by Vice Consul Okuda.

On December 2, 1941, Kuehn again visited the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu, at which time he delivered to Vice Consul Okuda a revised and simplified system of signalling. On this same occasion, Kuehn furnished written information concerning the number and various types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

On or about October 23, 1941, \$14,000 in cash was delivered to Kuehn at his residence in Kalama by Radasi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu.

Kuehn went on trial before the Military Commission in Honolulu on February 19, 1942, for violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. The charges against Kuehn specifically alleged that he conspired with the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu to transmit to Japan information pertaining to the national defense of the United States and to perform certain overt acts to effect such a conspiracy. Further, on or about December 2, 1941, Kuehn transmitted information relating to the United States Naval Fleet and the national defense of America

Kuehn was also charged to be an agent of the Imperial Japanese Government. Kuehn was also charged with unlawfully obtaining information regarding the number and types of United States Naval vessels based at Pearl Harbor with the intent and reason to believe that it was to be used for the injury of the United States and to the advantage of the Japanese Government.

A verdict of guilty on each of the preferred charges was returned by the Military Commission on February 21, 1942, and on the same date Kuehn was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, Kuehn's sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was born on July 25, 1895, in Berlin, Germany. In April, 1913, he enlisted in the German Navy and after a brief training period served as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser until January, 1915, when his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel and Kuehn taken as a prisoner of war by the British. Following the Armistice, Kuehn returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about six months of such service, Kuehn was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine at the University of Berlin and the University of Munich for about a year and one-half and thereafter engaged in various occupations in Germany.

On May 10, 1920, Kuehn married Friedel Kirk at Munich, Germany. At the time of this union, Mrs. Kuehn was the mother of two children named Leopold and Ruth. Two additional children, Martin Eberhard and Hans Joachim, resulted from the Kuehns' marriage. This perhaps significant to observe, that Leopold, a Nazi, became Minister of Propaganda during the Nazi Party's ascendance to power in 1933. But, Kuehn came to the United States with her family and married an American citizen, with whom she resided in Honolulu until she was taken into custody as a German alien by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kuehn admittedly became associated with the Nazi Party in 1930 as the result of his attending a meeting called by Hitler in Kiel, Germany. However, he contends that he did not become active until 1932. He frankly boasts that he was considered with Reinhold Heydrich for the position as Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler but, according to Kuehn's story, Heydrich double-crossed him by means of a ruse, which, coupled with Himmler's personal dislike for him, resulted in Heydrich's receiving the appointment, a position he, according to Nazi standard, filled so ably.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu on August 15, 1935, for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language.

1

- 5 -

Except for two short visits to Japan, one in 1936 and the other in 1938, Kuehn has resided in Honolulu continuously. Between May 1st, 1936, and February 7, 1939, over \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of this individual and his wife in a bank in Honolulu by the Rotterdam Bank Association in Amsterdam. This income supposedly accrued from investments and business interests owned by Kuehn in Germany and Holland. He explained the receipt of the money as the result of an agreement entered into with a Dr. Wilhelm Homburg of Kobe, Japan, whom he described as his prospective son-in-law. As already observed, Homburg never did actually marry into the Kuehn family.

Around the end of 1939, Kuehn was reported as being in dire financial straits, at which time he established a beauty parlor, to be operated by his daughter Ruth. About this enterprise, Mrs. Kuehn has been known to remark that the beauty shop was opened primarily to obtain "easy business."

At the time of Mrs. Eustina's departure from Japan on February 19, 1940, she brought with her a series of newspaper articles on "American Polynesia" which had appeared in the Honolulu "Advertiser" and contained descriptions of various British and American islands.

Upon her return to Honolulu on April 20, 1940, Mrs. Kuehn reportedly brought with her approximately \$16,000 in cash in large denominations.

During the extensive investigation conducted by the various intelligence agencies, it was learned that a dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Fuchs' residence on Kalena Road during the early fall of 1940. In January of the same year, Mrs. Fuchs purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. These field glasses are considered too high powered for ordinary purposes, as they cannot be used without a tripod or some other kind of rest because of their magnified vibrations.

The Kuehns were rather generally known in Honolulu as possessing pro-Nazi sympathies and being interested in the activities of various German clubs in that area. Mrs. Kuehn is credited with the statement that she

Prior to his involvement in this difficulty, no previous criminal record has been located on Kuehn in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGaughie \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinlan Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(5/14/43)

65-1574-116

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. M. E. GILFORD  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pursuant to the request contained in your memorandum of May 11, 1943,  
I am transmitting herewith a short summary of the case involving Bernard  
Julius Otto Kuschn.

It is assumed, of course, that the proper clearances will be secured  
by OWI prior to releasing this to the press.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 13 SEP 2001 BY SP&C

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILING 15  
★ MAY 15 1943 PM  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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RECEIVED-BOARDING ROOM  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

May 14, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

OKUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

#26

Letter dated May 14, 1943 (should have been May 14, 1943),

#93

Letter dated May 11, 1943,

#10

Letter dated May 10, 1943,

#10

Letter dated May 13, 1943,

#11

Letter dated May 12, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L,  
to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

\* Very truly yours

*Walter A. Hunter*  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

02061

Handled

4-20-43

R.A.P.

*Recd*  
*Enclosed*

5-18-43 TAPE

Mr. Clark.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Land.....  
Mr. Wholey.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Ms. Tracy.....  
Ms. Carson.....  
Mr. Henton.....  
Mr. Mumford.....  
Mr. Piper.....  
Mr. Stark.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....

HAWAII TIMES  
Thursday, April 15, 1943

## Axis Agent Here Gets 50 Years In Leavenworth

Convicted of espionage in Hawaii while acting as an agent for the Japanese government, Atto Kuehn, former Lanikai resident who once represented himself to be a metal furniture dealer in Honolulu, is serving a 50-year sentence in Leavenworth, it was revealed today.

Investigations made by the Honolulu FBI office resulted in Kuehn's prosecution and conviction in February, 1942.

His trial before a military commission in federal court here was the first espionage case in the United States after the outbreak of the war. It is believed that the sentence of 50 years is the heaviest for espionage crimes by axis agents imposed since the war started.

Kuehn was removed to the mainland immediately after being sentenced. His wife and daughter were also taken into custody on December 8, 1941. Mrs. Kuehn was subsequently removed to the mainland after being interned here while his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Moore, remained in detention here.

Kuehn came to Hawaii about eight years ago, and represented himself as a retired German naval officer.

Mrs. Kuehn and her daughter, Ruth, operated a beauty shop at Waioche shortly before December 7, receiving patronage of wives of naval officers from the naval base in that vicinity, according to testimony heard in a recent divorce trial here.

J. Carson Moore, husband of Ruth Kuehn-Moore, sued his wife for divorce on the ground of cruel treatment, alleging his wife failed to reveal that her father was an Axis agent. The divorce case was dismissed.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-13-86 BY SP5050S  
#268714

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369 AUG 4 1970

ENCLOSURE

65-1574-117

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



CC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

LBN:RC

May 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
RE: OTTO KUEHN

For record purposes, there is attached hereto a news item appearing in the Hawaii Times on April 15, 1943, which obviously came from the Honolulu Office.

You will recall that on May 16th, SAC Thornton advised that the information pertaining to Kuehn's sentence was given to the press on the day he took over the Honolulu Office in connection with comment concerning the accomplishments of former SAC Shivers, as many requests were received from newspapers for information on the cases handled during Mr. Shivers' assignment.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

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DATE 3-8-04 BY SPK/DB  
#26874  
ATTACHMENT



RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED

65-1574-117  
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18 JUN 7 1943  
FBI - HONOLULU  
CRIMINAL



65-1574

CLASSIFIED BY: *SOULS*  
RECLASSIFY ON: *2/28/44*

SECRET

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Lee  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Handon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beesh  
Miss Gandy

May 27, 1945  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was; et al;  
ESPIONAGE - G and J

#2844  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
BY: *SOULS*  
DATE: *5/27/44*

You will recall that this subject, immediately prior to December 7, 1941, furnished to Japanese consular officials at Honolulu a system of signalling, which was promptly communicated to Japan. This signalling system was designed as a means of transmitting to the Japanese detailed information regarding the location and number of American naval units at Pearl Harbor. Kuehn was charged with violation of the Espionage Statutes and was tried by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 19, 1942. On February 21, 1942, the Commission found him guilty and sentenced him to be shot.

Publicity on this case was not released by the Bureau after Kuehn was sentenced because Army officials at Honolulu, who had charge of the trial of Kuehn before the Military Commission, had requested that the facts of the case and the results of the conviction be kept confidential prior to the execution of sentence, since reprisals against American nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

The conviction and sentence of Kuehn was then, as is the general policy, referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review, and the Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the court. The matter was then referred to the State Department for review, and the State Department referred it to the Attorney General, requesting advice relative to the conviction of Kuehn.

RECORDED 65-1574-18  
In a memorandum dated November 30, 1942, Mr. Ugo Carusi, ~~Assistant to the Attorney General~~, advised the Bureau that Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years by the Military Governor of Honolulu, and 1943, FOR DEFENSE that Kuehn had been removed to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, to serve this sentence. Thereafter, the Honolulu Office advised the Bureau that a certified copy of the order of the Military Governor of Hawaii had been obtained in a confidential manner, setting forth that Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years.



BUY  
UNITED  
STATES  
GOVERNMENT  
BONDS  
AND WAR BONDS

53 JUL 21 1943

SECRET

**SECRET**

Memo for the Director  
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN  
was; et al; ESPIONAGE - G & J

- 2 -

5/27/43

The possibility of releasing publicity on this case was discussed with Mr. Shivers, former Special Agent in Charge at Honolulu, at the time he was attending an In Service Training course in Washington in January of 1943. Mr. Shivers at that time advised he could see no objection to giving this case publicity, but before any release was made by the Bureau, it would of course be necessary to clear this matter through appropriate Army authorities, inasmuch as the subject was tried before a Military Commission and because Army authorities have requested that the facts of the case be kept confidential. Mr. Shivers was of the opinion that this matter should be taken up with Army authorities in Washington rather than at Honolulu.

Thereafter, the Bureau attempted to secure clearance, through the Liaison Section of the Bureau, from Army authorities to release publicity on this case. The Bureau was unable to secure a definite answer from the Military authorities in Washington until April 23, 1943, at which time Colonel Forney of MIS advised it was the feeling of Army representatives in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Kuehn case was so closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster, they did not desire that a release be made at the present time for fear of another hue and cry which might be raised over Pearl Harbor.

Since that time, however, efforts to release a story on this case through the cooperation of the Office of War Information have been made and information regarding the case has been furnished that agency. As yet, the case has not received publicity through this means.

On April 15, 1943, there appeared in the Hawaii Times, Honolulu, Hawaii, a short news story setting forth a brief resume of the facts in this case and the results of Kuehn's conviction. Mr. Thornton was requested to submit to the Bureau an explanation as to why this release had been made by him without prior Bureau authorization.

[REDACTED]

b1

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

**SECRET**

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) 61 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
65-1574-118

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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MAJ

Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

May 22, 1943.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated May 20, 1943,

Letter dated May 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Federal  
Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas.

Very truly yours

S/  
Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

INITIALS ON CIPHER SHEET

D123

65-1594-119X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 31 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1 JUN 1943

CHARLES MALCOLMSON  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Department of Justice  
Washington

June 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LOUIS NICHOLS

*Otto Bernhard Kuehn*

You will be pleased to know, I am sure, that OWI has finally obtained clearances on the Kuehn article and that it will be released for morning papers of Monday, June 14. They had to make one or two minor concessions in order to obtain release from the Army and Navy. I have acceded to these changes on behalf of the Department rather than hold up the article any further or create any needless row, and I feel sure that you will take the same position.

The only changes in the entire manuscript are as follows:

The final paragraph on page 1 has been deleted. This was done on the insistence of Military Intelligence and OWI that there be no reference to the fact that the Americans cracked the Japanese codes. On this they were adamant.

The first paragraph on page 2 has been changed to read as follows: "Special agents of the FBI, with material furnished by the Military Intelligence Division of the Army and the Office of Naval Intelligence, as well as their own material, learned that on December 3 . . . ."

On page 3, line 3, the word "fateful" was deleted.

Otherwise, the story is exactly as approved by us.

If you have any objection to these changes and think they are important enough to go back on, please let me know at once this afternoon.

OWI is sending us several hundred copies, some of which I will forward to you.

✓ Approval by  
Misses Anna &  
Edith. Release  
given and given  
for many months  
50 JUN 22 1943



RECORDED  
SEARCHED  
CHARLES MALCOLMSON  
Director of Public Relations

65-1517-12a

ENR

2 JUN 14 1943

SERIALIZED  
FILED

X  
X  
8x-13

[REDACTED] b6  
b7c  
June 15-1943 b6

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-13-86 BY SP5C [REDACTED]

I note in the Topeka Daily Capital  
of Topeka Kansas, edition of June 15<sup>th</sup>,  
photos of a Mr Joseph Leo O'Feran, of  
[REDACTED] Joseph Leo O'Feran  
his wife Lydia [REDACTED] Lydia O'Feran  
and his son [REDACTED] whom he is charged  
with slaying. This item from Kansas  
City -

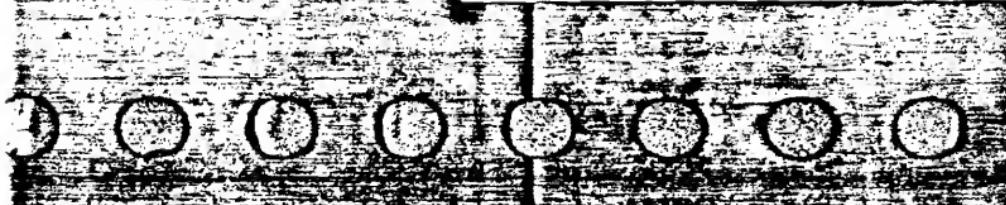
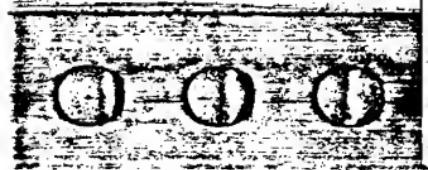
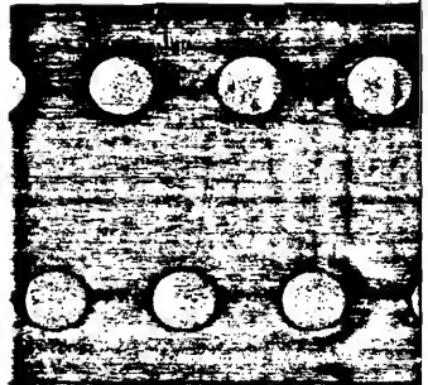
I also note a photo of whom I am quite  
sure the same people in the  
Wichita Beacon, of Wichita Kansas,  
edition of June 15<sup>th</sup> 1943 under name of  
[REDACTED] 65-1574-129  
Bernard Julius Otto Fehrn & his wife  
 Friedel [REDACTED] Friedel Fehrn  
 and as I understand the item was  
 imprisoned. [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED]

Arch 7-2-43 INDEXED  
AJC DISP

The photos of - by two couples  
being so near identical - put  
me to wondering if they could be  
the same people - or is it  
simply a mixup of photos & items  
with one of the two newspapers.  
I feel it is worth bringing  
to your attention as it could be  
possible that this man has escaped  
prison - & if so this might end  
search for him.

I am writing the Superintendental  
capital about it. However I am  
of the opinion that it is merely an  
error on the part of one of the papers  
as it seems to be the same photo.

Very Resp.



RECORDED

65-1594-120X

July 3, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-3-82 BY SP-5015

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to express my thanks for your courtesy in furnishing this Bureau the information contained in your letter dated June 15, 1943.

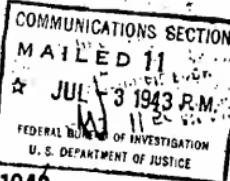
You may be assured this matter will receive such attention as the facts warrant.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E.A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED MAILING ROOM  
CH 9 28 PM 7/3/43



JUL 6 1943  
92

mf EB

CH 9

RJ

[REDACTED]  
June 16 1943

Edgar J. Hoover.

Dear Sir. I am writing to you in regard to this item that was in our local paper and it just seem right a man like Bernard J. Kushn should be left off at 50 years of hard labor. I feel he is deserving of a death sentence as I feel he is the same as a murderer, Or even worse being a spy. You see Mr. Hoover why I feel like a good many mothers feel we have our sons who are prisoners of the Japs somehow we feel this Kushn is deserving of a death sentence when our dear ones went over and bombed Japan the executed our fliers. I have one son a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippines another son in Africa the one son in the P.I. I haven't heard from in since Dec 8 1941. he has been over there 4 years and 8 month in the Army Air Corp that why I feel as I do. We mothers have a United Philippine War Veterans Auxiliary here and there are 15 mothers who feel as I do about this man Kushn. Don't you think all spys caught in the United States get off to easy somehow I feel as tho if there were a little more pressure put on these spys we wouldn't have quite so much of it. One just need to pick up the paper and read it and see how our loved ones are being treated and then compare the hoodlums and see how they are treated by United States.

I believe as all our mothers hers do all espionage agents should be shot as they do to our people. After all after they serve their term they are free to go again to do some more damage. Just to get out and enjoy life once more and I feel this is not right our loved ones gone before us I'm sure would feel the same. I believe in eye for an eye.

I know Mr. Hoover you are doing a wonderful job in our trying times and may God bless you and our best wishes go with you.

Very Truly

[REDACTED]  
Mpls Minn.

True copy - vj

COPIES DESTROYED  
369 AUG 4 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/18/01 BY SP5/CJS

June 14, 1943

# German Spy Gets 50 Years as Jap Pearl Harbor Aid

## U. S. Reveals Nazi Helped to Prepare Attack; Family Is Interned

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The office of war information today reported German espionage agents helped the Japanese prepare their attack on Pearl Harbor and at least one of them was sentenced to death, but the sentence later was commuted.

The report said Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, a Nazi agent, was tried before a military commission in Honolulu on charges of betraying the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese five days before the Dec. 7, 1941, attack.

He was convicted Feb. 21, 1942, and sentenced to be shot.

On Oct. 26, 1942, the sentence was commuted to 50 years at hard labor. Basis for the commutation was not given.

Members of Kuehn's family have been interned for the duration, either in Hawaii or in this country. They include Mrs. Kuehn; her son, Eberhard Martin Kuehn, and a daughter by her previous marriage, Susie Kaete Ruth Kuehn.

The OWI report, based on information from the federal bureau of investigation, said Kuehn went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying Japanese.

In three years he banked more than \$70,000.

Picked up on Dec. 8, 1941, Kuehn and his wife at first denied they ever had any negotiations with the Japanese government, OWI said, adding:

"But increasing evidence from the FBI contradicted their assertions and on Dec. 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a statement admitting he had prepared a system of signals for the Japanese consul general which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his message of Dec. 3."

The signals, OWI explained, were for use in reporting movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor.

"One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama," the OWI report



BERNARD J. KUEHN  
Gets 50 years at hard labor



FRIEDEL KUEHN  
Interned for duration

*Placed in  
free in  
the 7th year  
8/14/43*

pected of engaging in espionage behalf of Germany and Japan had been under investigation naval and military intelligence ice as well as the FBI."

Highlights of Kuehn's story reported by OWI:

Sometime during November, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese vice consul at Honolulu, and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. Okuda requested, first, information regarding the movement of American fleet at Pearl Harbor, a system of signals which information could be veyed to the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese vice consul thought the first system "complicated," and Kuehn admitted a simplified system I-2, together with a tabular of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

Mrs. Kuehn told FBI agents by a former marriage is serving the Nazi party as an agent to Propaganda Minister Goebbels.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/13/01 BY SP5/CJS

ENCLOSURE  
65

Minneapolis  
June 6 1943.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-13-00 BY SP5/CJS

Edgar J. Hoover.

Dear Sir.

I am writing to you in regard to this item that was in our local paper and it just seem right a man like Bernard J. Kuehn should be left off at 50 years of hard labor. I feel he is deserving of a death sentence as I feel he is the same as a murderer or even worse being a spy. You see Mr. Hoover why I feel like a good many mothers feel we have our sons who are prisoners of the Japs somehow we feel this Kuehn is deserving of a death sentence when our dear ones went away and borrowed upon the executed our flies. I have one son a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippines another son in Africa the one son to the P.D. I haven't heard from in since Dec 8 1941. He has been over there 4 years and 8 month in the Army <sup>RECORDED & INDEXED 06-15-74</sup> ~~Army~~ <sup>36</sup> ~~Army~~ <sup>E</sup> ~~E~~ <sup>B</sup> ~~B~~ <sup>D</sup> ~~D~~ <sup>F</sup> ~~F~~ <sup>G</sup> ~~G~~ <sup>H</sup> ~~H~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>J</sup> ~~J~~ <sup>K</sup> ~~K~~ <sup>L</sup> ~~L~~ <sup>M</sup> ~~M~~ <sup>N</sup> ~~N~~ <sup>O</sup> ~~O~~ <sup>P</sup> ~~P~~ <sup>Q</sup> ~~Q~~ <sup>R</sup> ~~R~~ <sup>S</sup> ~~S~~ <sup>T</sup> ~~T~~ <sup>U</sup> ~~U~~ <sup>V</sup> ~~V~~ <sup>W</sup> ~~W~~ <sup>X</sup> ~~X~~ <sup>Y</sup> ~~Y~~ <sup>Z</sup> ~~Z~~ <sup>AA</sup> ~~AA~~ <sup>BB</sup> ~~BB~~ <sup>CC</sup> ~~CC~~ <sup>DD</sup> ~~DD~~ <sup>EE</sup> ~~EE~~ <sup>FF</sup> ~~FF~~ <sup>GG</sup> ~~GG~~ <sup>HH</sup> ~~HH~~ <sup>II</sup> ~~II~~ <sup>JJ</sup> ~~JJ~~ <sup>KK</sup> ~~KK~~ <sup>LL</sup> ~~LL~~ <sup>MM</sup> ~~MM~~ <sup>NN</sup> ~~NN~~ <sup>OO</sup> ~~OO~~ <sup>PP</sup> ~~PP~~ <sup>QQ</sup> ~~QQ~~ <sup>RR</sup> ~~RR~~ <sup>SS</sup> ~~SS~~ <sup>TT</sup> 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<sup>VV</sup> ~~VV~~ <sup>WW</sup> ~~WW~~ <sup>XX</sup> ~~XX~~ <sup>YY</sup> ~~YY~~ <sup>ZZ</sup> ~~ZZ~~ <sup>AA</sup> ~~AA~~ <sup>BB</sup>

all spys caught in the United States get off  
to easy some how I feel as tho if there were  
a little more pressure put on these spys  
we wouldnt have quite so much of it.  
one just need to pick up the paper and read  
it and see how our loved ones are being  
treated and then compare the hoodlums and  
see how they are treated by United States.

I believe as all our mothers here do all  
espionage agents should be shot as they  
do to our people, after all after they serve their  
time they are free to go again to do some  
more damage. just to get out and enjoy  
life once more and I feel this is not right  
our loved ones gone before us I'm sure  
would feel the same. I believe in eye for  
an eye.

I know Mr Hoover you are doing a wonderful  
job in our trying times and may God bless  
you and our best wishes go with you

[REDACTED]

Very Truly

[REDACTED]

July 1, 1943

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Part

I have for acknowledgment your letter of June 16, 1943, with enclosure.

You may be assured that the content of your communication and enclosure has been read with interest and care and I wish to thank you very much for volunteering your comments and observations in this regard. Inasmuch as the individual mentioned by you was tried before a military commission in Honolulu, as was also indicated by the news item forwarded by you, I am taking the liberty of referring copies of your letter to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

BOMBONICATIONS SECTION  
Tracy  
Acme MAILED 9  
Carson  
Harbo JUL 2 1943 P.M.  
Hendon  
MURKIN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
State  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Candy

12 JUL 9 - 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

7-1-43  
65-1574-121

RECORDED

Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-2, War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Colonel L. R. Forney

As of possible interest to you there are attached copies of a letter recently received at the Bureau from [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Minnesota. Accompanying [REDACTED] letter was a news item reflecting that Bernard J. Kuehn was tried before a military commission in Honolulu on charges of betraying the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese five days before the December 7, 1941 attack. This news item was captioned, "German Spy Gets 50 Years as Jap Pearl Harbor Aid".

[REDACTED] has been advised of this reference.

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

B

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION	
M A I L E D 3	
★ JUL 2 1943 P.M.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

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13 JUL 7 - 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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52 JUL 28 1943

JOHN EDWARD ROEVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

June 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Attached is the first draft of the press release  
on Bernard Julius Ott & Ruehn, prepared by OWI, and it  
should be filed for record purposes.

Respectfully,

RECORDED

JUN 25 1943

Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 13-8-01 BY SP-5

29 JUL 1 1943

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Judd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beson

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, OWI revealed that Bernhard Julius Otto Kuehn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, "conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941."

Kuehn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, "who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands," was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story which is made public for the first time today, is a tale of treachery that is both devious and direct. It involves signals flashed by "a light in Tanikai beach house at night". It involves "a light in former window of Kalama house". It involves the destruction of American ships and the death of American men.

On the morning following the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, ~~Intelligence Agents~~ representatives of the FBI succeeded in obtaining from various commercial radio and cable companies in Honolulu copies of certain hitherto unavailable messages which had been exchanged between the Japanese Consulate at Honolulu and the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo.

In translation, one of these messages revealed that on December 3, Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the F.B.I. had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by a man who went by the name of Otto Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and they had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the F.B.I. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the F.B.I. was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

F.B.I. Agents apprehended Kuehn and his wife December 8, 1941, on the authority of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department who, immediately following the declaration of war against the United States, had ordered all German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary detention.

When they were first picked up, the Kuehns, according to F.B.I. reports, flatly denied that they had ever had any negotiations with the Japanese Government. But increasing evidence from the F.B.I. confused their stories and on December 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a

statement admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul-General which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his farewell message of December 3.

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, is as follows: Sometime during the month of November, 1941, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese Vice-Consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. He, Kuehn, declared that Okuda requested him first to get the information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and second, to devise a system of signals by which this information could be imparted to the Japanese fleet.

Kuehn, according to the story he told the F.B.I. agents, went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which should be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

But the Japanese officials thought the system too complicated. Vice-Consul Okuda, according to the report, told him to come back with a simpler system. Kuehn came back, on December 2, with his revised and simplified system. He also handed over to Okuda a written tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by Tadasi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

Kuehn went on trial February 19, 1942. The technical charges were violation of Sections 31, 32, and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. He was found guilty on each of the charges, was but sentenced to be shot, later his sentence commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Berhard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipmen aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

Following the Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of a mine sweeper flotilla. After about 6 months of this he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munchen, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, "is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels."

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmle. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I. and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 24, 1936 and February 7, 1939, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

In 1940 Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their magnified vibrations, they cannot be used without a tripod or some other kind of rest.

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold Kuehn, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.

COPY  
EG

Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 29, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED] KUEHN, Friedel, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated June 26, 1943 [REDACTED]

Letter dated June 26, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal  
City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas

Letter dated June 24, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel  
Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal  
City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RJ  
7/11/15 1943

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
173

15-1574-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 8 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 8-3-95 BY SPG/C

Watertown, Watertown, N.Y.  
Daily Times 6-14-43

## NAZI SPY AIDED AT PEARL HARBOR

Played Major Role in Jap Attack—Death Sentence Commuted

ARRANGED SYSTEM TO  
AID JAPS

Picked Up with His Wife Day After Attack—He had Banked \$10,000 in Three Years in Hawaii.

Washington, June 14. (UPI)—The Office of War Information (OWI) reported today that German espionage agents helped the Japanese prepare their attack on Pearl Harbor, and at least one of them was sentenced to death but the sentence later was commuted. Sentenced To Be Shot.

The report said Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, a Nazi agent, was tried before a military commission in Honolulu on charges of betraying the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Japanese five days before the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. He was convicted on Feb. 21, 1942, and sentenced to be shot. On Oct. 26, 1942, the sentence was commuted to 50 years at hard labor. The basis for the commutation was not given.

Members of Kuehn's family have been interned for the duration, either in Hawaii or in this country. They include Mrs. Kuehn, her son, Eberhard Marie Kuehn, and a daughter by her previous marriage, Susie Kate Ruth Kuehn.

The OWI report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Kuehn went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying Japanese, and in three years banked more than \$70,000.

Aided Japanese



Bernard J. O'Kuehn (top) and  
Mrs. Kuehn

Picked up on Dec. 8, 1941, Kuehn and his wife at first denied they ever had any negotiations with the Japanese government, OWI said, adding:

"But increasing evidence from the FBI contradicted their assertions and on Dec. 30, 1941, Kuehn signed a statement admitting he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese consul-general which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his message of Dec. 7."

The signals, OWI explained, were for use in reporting the movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Highlights of Kuehn's story, as reported by OWI:

Some time during November, 1941, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese vice consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. Okuda requested, first, information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor; second, a system of signals by which information could be conveyed to the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese vice consul thought the first system "too complicated," and Kuehn submitted a simplified system Dec. 2, together with a tabulation of the numbers and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

On Oct. 25, 1941, FBI reported, Tadao Norimura, fourth secretary of the Japanese consulate, delivered \$14,000 in cash to Kuehn. There was no explanation of this payment in advance of the time he purportedly offered his services to the Japanese.

Mrs. Kuehn told FBI agents that a son by a former marriage is now serving as a Nazi party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Goebbels. He is known as Leopold Kuehn, and once was considered for chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler, but Reinhold Heydrich "double-crossed him" and won the post. Czech patriots killed Heydrich.

PING FROM WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

TOWN, NY.

43

FORWARDED BY ALBANY OFFICE

ENCLOSURE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FDIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b2d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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**SECRET**

May 27, 1948

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per 118

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Original cannot be located  
and is not on record. When  
original is received in Files  
Division it will be filed either  
with this copy or may be given  
a new serial.

0440  
1/22/43 K.G.S.

THE DIRECTOR

To: **BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN was; et al;**  
REPIGAGE - 8 AND 3

You will recall that this subject, immediately prior to December 7, 1941, furnished to Japanese consular officials at Honolulu a system of signalling, which was promptly communicated to Japan. This signalling system was designed as a means of transmitting to the Japanese detailed information regarding the location and number of American naval units at Pearl Harbor. Kuehn was charged with violation of the Espionage Statute and was tried by a Military Commission at Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 18, 1942. On February 21, 1942, the Commission found him guilty and sentenced him to be shot.

Publicity on this case was not released by the Bureau after Kuehn was sentenced because Army officials at Honolulu, who had charge of the trial of Kuehn before the Military Commission, had requested that the facts of the case and the results of the conviction be kept confidential prior to the execution of sentence, since reprisals against American nationals in Japan and Germany might result.

RECORDED

K-1574-127

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glaser, referred to the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington for review, and the Judge Advocate General upheld the finding of the court.  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
The matter was then referred to the State Department for review, and the Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ State Department referred it to the Attorney General, requesting advice relative to the conviction of Kuehn.

Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
In a memorandum dated November 20, 1942, Mr. Ugo Carusi, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, advised the Bureau that Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years by the Military Governor at Honolulu and Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_ that Kuehn had been removed to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_ Kansas, to serve this sentence. Thereafter, the Honolulu Office advised Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_ the Bureau that a certified copy of the order of the Military Governor Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_ of Hawaii had been obtained in a confidential manner, setting forth that Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_ Kuehn's sentence had been commuted to fifty years.

Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JUL 28 1943

440

**SECRET**

JK  
OSAK

*RECD/BL*  
Memo for the Director  
Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KIRK  
was; et al; ESPIONAGE - G. & J.

- 2 -

**SECRET**

4/27/43

The possibility of releasing publicity on this case was discussed with Mr. Shivers, former Special Agent in Charge at Honolulu, at the time he was attending an In Service Training course in Washington in January of 1943. Mr. Shivers at that time advised he could see no objection to giving this case publicity, but before any release was made by the Bureau, it would of course be necessary to clear the matter through appropriate Army authorities, inasmuch as the subject was tried before a Military Commission and because Army authorities have requested that the facts of the case be kept confidential. Mr. Shivers was of the opinion that this matter should be taken up with Army authorities in Washington rather than at Honolulu.

Thereafter, the Bureau attempted to secure clearance, through the Liaison Section of the Bureau, from Army authorities to release publicity on this case. The Bureau was unable to secure a definite answer from the Military authorities in Washington until April 28, 1943, at which time the Attorney of the War Department advised it was the feeling of Army Representatives in Hawaii and the Governor of Hawaii that since the Kehoe case was so closely allied with the Pearl Harbor disaster, they did not desire that a release be made at the present time for fear of another hue and cry which might be raised over Pearl Harbor.

Since that time, however, efforts to release a story on this case through the cooperation of the Office of War Information have been made and information regarding the case has been furnished that agency. As yet, the case has not received publicity through this means.

*RECD/BL*  
Respectfully,

D. H. Ladd

**SECRET**

C MAJ

Department of Justice  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 28, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re:

OKUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated May 26, 1943,

Letter dated May 26, 1943,

Letter dated May 27, 1943, from

Letter dated May 18, 1943, from

Letter undated from Mrs. Friedel Knuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours,

*h*  
Reed Cessart  
Acting Warden

Encls.

394

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*h*

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JUN 9 1943

1943

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Department of  
UNITED STATES  
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 31, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re:

AUERHAN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

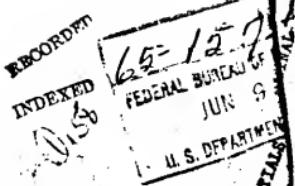
Letter dated May 25, 1943 [REDACTED]

Letter dated May 29, 1943, from Otto Euehn, No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Frieda Euehn, Federal Detention Station, Seagoville, Texas

Very truly yours,

S/  
Reed Covert  
Acting Warden

Incls.



52 JUN 17 1943

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 2, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and ~~DELIVER~~ return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#53 Letter dated May 29, 1943,

Letter dated May 31, 1943

Letter dated May 28, 1943, from Mrs. Friedal  
#1218 Kuehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas,  
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Very truly yours

  
Fred T. Fosart  
Acting Warden

Enclos.

L-145  
SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 7, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

53 Letter dated June 5, 1943.

53

-2378

93 Letter dated May 31, 1943, from

93

a 2379

48 Letter dated June 2, 1943, from

48

a 2380

44 Letter dated June 3, 1943, from

44

a 2381

11 Letter dated June 1, 1943, from

11

a 2382

Letter dated June 6, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City  
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas

a 2383

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

A1  
b6  
b7c

# ADVANCE RELEASE

ADVANCE RELEASE: For Monday Afternoon Papers, June 14, 1943

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OWI-2026

German espionage agents collaborated with the Japanese in preparing the way for Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the Office of War Information disclosed today.

In a report, based on information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation OWI revealed that Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, German agent and member of the Nazi party, conspired with Japanese spies to betray the United States Fleet in Pearl Harbor to the Imperial Japanese Government four days before the attack on December 7, 1941.

Kuehn, who went to Honolulu in 1935 for the ostensible purpose of studying the Japanese language, who banked more than \$70,000 his first three years in Hawaii, and whose daughter operated a beauty parlor for the families of our Navy men in the Islands, was tried before the Military Commission in Honolulu for violations of the United States Code Annotated; was found guilty on February 21, 1942, and was sentenced to be shot. On October 26, 1942, his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

The story is made public for the first time today.

Special Agents of the FBI aided by material furnished by the Military Intelligence Division of the Army and the Office of Naval Intelligence as well as their own material learned that on December 3, Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, had furnished his Foreign Office with a complete system of signals to be used in the transmission of intelligence information regarding movements of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. One such signal was a light in a dormer window of a house in Kalama.

Kalama is a comparatively small community located at Kailua, Oahu. Special Agents of the FBI had no difficulty in locating the house with the dormer window. It was owned and occupied by Kuehn, and his wife, Friedel.

The Kuehns were German nationals. They had previously been suspected of engaging in espionage activities in behalf of Germany and Japan and had been under investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, as well as by the FBI. These inquiries had brought out the fact that the Kuehns also had a beach house at Lanikai. And another of the signals mentioned in the message in possession of the FBI was a light in a beach house at Lanikai.

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F.B.I. Agents apprehended Kuehn and his wife December 7, 1941, on the authority of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department who, immediately following the declaration of war against the United States, had ordered German and Italian aliens to be picked up for temporary detention.

When they were first picked up the Kuehns, according to F.B.I. reports, flatly denied that they had ever had any negotiations with the Japanese Government. But increasing evidence from the F. B. I. contradicted their assertions and on December 20, 1941, Kuehn signed a statement admitting that he had prepared the system of signals for the Japanese Consul-General which the latter had dispatched to Tokyo in his Message of December 5.

Kuehn's story, as detailed in the F.B.I. files, follows:

Sometime during the month of November, 1941, he went to Otojiro Okuda, Japanese Vice-Consul at Honolulu and offered to assist the Japanese in obtaining information about the national defense of the United States. Kuehn declared Okuda requested him; first, to get the information regarding the movement of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and second, to devise a system of signals by which this information could be imparted to the Japanese fleet.

Kuehn went to Pearl Harbor (accompanied by his ten-year old son, Hans Joachim) and made his observations. A few days later he went to the Japanese Consulate and submitted a signal system which he had worked out, which could be used by the Consulate in furnishing information as to the number and types of American ships in Pearl Harbor, as well as data about the ships that had already left or were about to leave.

But the Japanese officials thought the system too complicated. Vice-Consul Okuda, according to the report, told him to come back with a simpler system. Kuehn came back, on December 2, with his revised and simplified system. He also handed over to Okuda a written tabulation of the number and types of American ships then in Hawaiian waters.

The F.B.I. reports that on or about October 25, 1941, \$14,000 in cash had been delivered to Kuehn, at his residence with the dormer window, by Tadasi Morimura, Fourth Secretary of the Japanese Consulate.

Kuehn went on trial February 19, 1942. The technical charges were violation of Sections 31, 32 and 34, Title 50, United States Code Annotated. He was found guilty on each of the charges and was sentenced to be shot, but later his sentence was commuted to fifty years at hard labor.

Other members of the Kuehn family have been interned, either in Hawaii or in this country, for the duration of the war. They include, Mrs. Kuehn, her son, Eberhard Martin Kuehn, and a daughter by her previous marriage who now goes by the name of Suse Kaete Ruth Kuehn.

Kuehn, who is listed in the F.B.I. files under several aliases, was born Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn, in Berlin, Germany, July 25, 1895. When he was 18 he enlisted in the German Navy. He was serving as a midshipman aboard a German cruiser in World War I, and when in January, 1915, his ship was sunk in a sea battle with an English war vessel, he was taken prisoner.

47-1741-17467

17467  
FBI-Honolulu

I-16808

17467

Dec 18 1941

Following Armistice he returned to Berlin and re-entered the Naval Service as an Ober-Lieutenant aboard the mother ship of mine sweeper flotilla. After 6 months he was released and placed in the Naval Reserve Corps. He studied medicine briefly at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, and engaged in various occupations in Germany.

In 1920, in Munchen, Germany, Kuehn married Friedel Birk who had two children by a previous marriage, Leopold and Ruth. Leopold, according to his mother's declaration, is now serving the Nazi Party as an assistant to Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

It is one of Kuehn's proud boasts, according to F.B.I. Information, that he was so high in the Nazi Party that he was once considered for the position of Chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler. His rival for the job, Reinhold Heydrich, double-crossed him, Kuehn told the F.B.I., and won the coveted post.

Kuehn was first admitted to the United States at Honolulu, August 15, 1935. His alleged reason for coming was to study the Japanese language. He never went back to Germany. He made two trips to Japan.

Between May 14, 1936 and February 7, 1939, more than \$70,000 was deposited to the credit of Kuehn and his wife in a Honolulu bank by the Rotterdam Bank Association. It was supposed to have come from investments and business interests of his in Germany and Holland.

But about the end of 1939 Kuehn was reported to be in financial difficulties. He established a beauty parlor which his wife's daughter, Ruth, operated. Ruth's mother is reported to have said that the shop was really opened to obtain "Navy business."

Mrs. Kuehn went to Japan for a visit in 1940 and returned home with a series of articles on "American Polynesia" which contained descriptions of various British and American islands. She is also reported to have brought back some \$16,000 in cash.

It was in the early fall of 1940, too, that the now famous dormer window was constructed in the attic of the Kuehn's home on Kalama Road. In January of that same year Mrs. Kuehn purchased a pair of eighteen-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars. This was an unusual purchase for a woman to make, for these field glasses are considered too high-powered for ordinary purposes. Because of their magnified vibrations, they cannot be used without a tripod or some other kind of rest.

Although no previous criminal record has been connected with Kuehn in the F.B.I. files, both he and his wife were generally known in Honolulu as pro-Nazi and took part in the activities of various local German clubs.

Leopold Kuehn, writing to his parents on March 27, 1939, expressed sorrow that his step-father, an old National Socialist who deserved a role in current events, was not a participant in the present war.

UNITED STATES PENITENTIA  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 15, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

RUEPIN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

DETERMINED BY WRITING

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated June 12, 1943,

#53 [REDACTED]

2484

Letter dated June 13, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L,  
#121 to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp Crystal City,  
Crystal City, Texas

Q 2485

Letter dated June 9, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
#121 Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas,  
to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Q 2486

Very truly yours

No newspaper  
clipping in this  
envelope, which was  
mentioned in letter.  
Encls. *Walter A. Hunter*  
Warden

FOI/PA # 208414  
APPEAL #  
CIVIL ACT. #  
E.O. A2350  
DATE 6-14-80 IN-SEALS 100

Records Retained in [REDACTED]

6-18-43 EC

Administrative  
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65-1574-12784

21 JUN 23 1943

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58 JUL 5 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

June 22, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KRUSH, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated June 19, 1943,

Letter dated June 20, 1943, from Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L to Mrs. Frieder Kuehn, Internment  
Camp, Crystal City, Texas

Letter dated June 16, 1943, from

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED

INDEXED

DPA

EX-36

100-1574-12745

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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SEARCHED

65-1574-128

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etc

August 10, 1943

Honorable Francis Maloney  
United States Senator

My dear Senators:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 2, 1943, in which you requested information concerning Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn and his wife, Friedel. For your information, Kuehn was arrested at Honolulu, Hawaii, December 8, 1941, and on February 21, 1942, was found guilty of engaging in espionage on behalf of the Japanese. He was tried before a military commission and although originally sentenced to be shot, this sentence was commuted on October 26, 1942, to fifty years imprisonment at hard labor.

According to the information which we presently have available, Kuehn's wife, Friedel, has now been interned for the duration of the war in pursuance to an order of the military commission at Honolulu, Hawaii.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/10/2014 BY SP

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Acer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harlan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford MAILED 7  
Mr. Starkie \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Queen AUG 10 1943 P.M.  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

8-310 2-114-111

20 AUG 10 1943 23

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Miss ~~Communications Section~~ Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice

20 AUG 12 1943 23

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 6, 1943  
*PC/210*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: *O* KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated July 3, 1943, from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encl.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
D163  
EX-46

65-1574-129

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
19 JUL 19 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS

55 JUL 26 1943 *34*

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Please pages were found to be duplicate pages  
of 65-1574-107X

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.  
June 2, 1943

file  
for X  
you

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Re: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn

W/8  
  
You will recall that some time ago OWI prepared a release on this case. I have been following it from day to day and have been advised that Elmer Davis took the matter up with the War Department and the War Department objected to the release of the information pertaining to Kuehn's conviction and the method of signaling on the ground that to release the story would mean that we would be telling the Japs that we had their diplomatic code.

For your information, SAC Shivers called the Chief of Police of Honolulu to guard the Japanese Consulate at Hawaii at the time of the bombing. When [REDACTED] arrived with a squad to guard the Consulate they found the Vice Consul, Atojiro Okuda, in the act of burning some of the Consulate papers. [REDACTED] ordered the burning of the papers ceased and among the papers being burned was the telegraph file, together with other documents including what appeared to be the Consulate code. This material was not inventoried but was delivered to OWI. Later, messages between the Consulate and the Jap foreign service were secured from the local communications companies. When these were secured it was possible to translate the coded message setting forth the signals devised by Kuehn.

While the Jap Consuls, Kita and Okuda, know that we have the Consulate code, it would appear that this is the type of knowledge which no longer should be kept secret, however, it is suggested that we advise OWI that they might get around the objection of the Army by merely stating that a copy of the message was secured from the Jap Consulate prior to its being coded. This would, of course, put Kita in the middle with the foreign office and while it would not be correctly presenting the picture, nevertheless, from the propaganda value it is believed this would not be objectionable.

Respectfully,



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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-14-88 BY SP5 [REDACTED]

#268414

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32-16982

52 AUG 25 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

142-2  
*ps*  
August 3, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: [REDACTED]  
ALM. Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated July 31, 1943,

Letter dated July 20, 1943, w/photos enclosed,  
from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp,  
Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn, No. 59603-L

Birthday greeting card, envelope postmarked  
July 31, 1943.

Letter dated July 30, 1943, w/enclosures and  
photos,

Very truly yours

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Enclos.

SEARCHED  
&  
INDEXED

65-1574-13  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
AUG 12 1943

EC Aug 26 1943  
142-2

COPY  
LR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

July 13, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

To: [REDACTED]

KUEHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

Letter dated July 10, 1943, [REDACTED]

Letter dated July 9, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated July 8, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kuehn,  
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kuehn,  
No. 59603-L

Letter dated July 11, 1943, from Otto Kuehn, No.  
59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp,  
Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encls.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

W.M.

65-1574-134  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 31 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS [REDACTED]

July 19, 1943

Office of War Information

Washington D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/14/86 BY SP-20105

Dear Sirs,

Concerning an AP, June 17, 1943

newspaper item concerning the  
conviction of a Julius Otto Kuehn,  
Nazi Agent, for betraying the  
U.S. Fleet to the Japanese  
preparatory for the attack on  
Pearl Harbor, I thought you  
might like to know that  
Mrs. Kuehn about 45 years  
of age, sailed from Honolulu  
on the S.S. President Coolidge  
Monday, Feb. 19, 1940, and dis-  
barked at Yokohama, Japan  
on Thursday, Feb. 29, 1940.

RECORDED 65-1574-1

INDEXED 32 JUL 29 1943

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the States to the Philippines and  
were invited to visit her on our  
way back to the States. The address  
she gave was 1476 Kailua Ave,  
~~Honolulu~~<sup>Hawaii</sup> - Teleph. 6 White 9229.

\*Address\* Thinking that the  
information might prove  
significant and helpful to  
the OWT I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

b6 b7c  
80-22639-134X

RECORDED

August 14, 1943

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication, dated July 19, 1943, which was forwarded to this Bureau by the Office of War Information, Washington, D. C.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to the attention of the Government are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-14-86 BY SP5/CJL/S

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 2  
★ AUG 16 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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Drafts  
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 26, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re: [REDACTED]  
KUSHN, Otto, No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following-listed letters:

Letter dated July 19, 1943, from [REDACTED]

Letter dated July 23, 1943, from Otto Kushn,  
No. 59603-L, to Mrs. Friedel Kushn, Internment  
Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Letter dated July 16, 1943, from Mrs. Friedel Kushn,  
Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, to Otto Kushn,  
No. 59603-L.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

RECORDED & INDEXED

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INVESTIGATOR
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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
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September 1, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: KUEHN, Bernard J. O.  
No. 59603

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated August 31, 1943 from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kuehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Hunter  
Warden

Encl.

RECORDED

56 SEP 2 1943

65-1574-13

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 9 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

~~BERNARD JULIUS OTTO FUCHS,~~ summary  
WITH ALIAS OTTO KUHN--ESPIONAGE

Although the American people have become more fully conscious of the danger the United States faces from the acts of an espionage agent, it is difficult for many to conceive the full scope and effect of the true danger. This is due to the fact that the American public cannot comprehend the translation of the spy's activities into death and destruction. The case which all too vividly effects this transformation is that of Bernard Julius Otto Fuchs.

Fuchs conspired with the spies of the Imperial Japanese Government to betray the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Regardless of the fact that he was an Oberleutnant of the German Navy, a fanatical member of the notorious Nazi Party of Germany and the head of a family, the four adult members of which had pledged their lives and fortunes to the Germany of Hitler, his acts will stand forever enblazoned with the word "traitor." Fuchs was an applicant for American citizenship to which he would have been admitted on the last Saturday of January, 1943.

Fuchs sold to the Imperial Japanese Government espionage information they desired in order to successfully

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DATE 8/20/05 BY SP5/CJ/MS

Tolson  
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Clegg  
Derby  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Maddox  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Acheson  
Carson  
Hartman  
Henderson  
Manford  
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4 1970

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65-1574-138

affect their attack on Pearl Harbor as of December 7, 1941. He conveyed to the Japanese the strength and number of warships assigned to Pearl Harbor. He also devised a set of signals which were to be used as a warning to the Japanese fleet in the event the American fleet learned of their intended attack and put escorting forces to sea between December 1 and 8, 1941.

Otto Kuehn was arrested by the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation acting with the military authorities on December 8, 1941. Martial law had been placed into force in the Hawaiian Islands. Therefore, Kuehn was tried by a military commission and sentenced to face death by a firing squad. This sentence was later commuted to fifty years' imprisonment at hard labor in a Federal Penitentiary.

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was born of a middle-class German family on July 25, 1895, at Berlin, Germany. His father was a doctor of chemistry employed as a food inspector at Stettin, Germany.

Kuehn cast his fortune at an early age with the powerful naval faction of Germany when he enlisted as a cadet in the German Navy in April, 1913, at the age of seventeen. His primary training was received at Flensburg on board the training cruiser "Bertha." Shortly prior to the outbreak of the World War in August, 1914, Kuehn was promoted to a midshipman and transferred to the "SMS Blucher," a German battle cruiser.

The "Blucher" was sunk by the battle cruiser "HMS Lion" on January 26, 1915, when a patrol squadron under the English Vice-Admiral Beatty intercepted a German squadron of three battle cruisers which was attempting to reach the British Coast.

Kuehn, an ensign by this time, survived the sinking and was taken as a prisoner of war to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he remained until January, 1918, when he was returned to Germany in an exchange of prisoners. The balance of Kuehn's World War service was spent in Holland.

Following the Armistice in November, 1918, he studied architecture for three months and then returned to the demilitarized German Navy as a lieutenant on board the "Wittelsbach," mother ship of a mine-sweeper flotilla. In August, 1919, Kuehn was released from active duty and placed into the German Naval Reserve.

In the fall of 1919 Kuehn returned to his studies and enrolled as a student in the University of Munich. Shortly before the completion of his first year's work he married Friedel Birk, a childhood acquaintance. Friedel was a war mother of two children—Leopold, who was born at Berlin, July 6, 1911, and Ruth, born in Berlin on March 1, 1915. The two children adopted the name of their foster father. Kuehn's father died and left him a small estate with a portion of which he purchased during the summer of 1920 the "Antares," a sail

freighter which he operated between Rotterdam, Holland, and Finland. Disaster soon overtook this venture for the "Antares" was wrecked and sold as salvage for the sum of \$2,000.

Kuehn returned to his studies, transferring to the University of Berlin in the fall of 1920. He completed one year's work and ceased his university training in the spring of 1921.

The next seven years were spent in Germany at various occupations. In June, 1921, Kuehn entered the employment of Siemens-Halske, Limited, a large electrical manufacturing concern in Berlin. This employment was followed until June, 1923, when he entered private business as a soda water manufacturer at Stettin, Germany. This business did not prove successful and in June, 1924, he secured a position with Pommereche-Meirein, a large dairy in Berlin, where he was employed as an inspector.

In 1926, Kuehn re-entered the German Navy and was assigned to active duty with the Defense Section of the High Command at Oster, Germany. His first taste of undercover assignment was gained in this position for his duties entailed the investigation of subversive activity among Army and Navy officers. This employment continued under the Weimar Republic until 1930 when he was dismissed from the service.

The reason for this dismissal is not clear. Kuehn maintains that he was dismissed for financial irregularities

but it is known that in 1930 while attending a meeting which was addressed by Adolph Hitler at Kiel, Germany, he joined the Nazi Party which was then at odds with the Weimar Republic and also secured the enrollment of his son, Leopold, as a member.

Little is known concerning Kuehn's activities from 1930-32. He states that for a while he was engaged as a sales manager with one Overbeck in operating a chain of coffee stores in Berlin. Ruth was employed by the Nazi Party Youth Group in campaigning for Hitler. When Adolph Hitler came into power in 1933, Kuehn capitalized upon his party membership and traveled to Munich with Reinhold Heydrich to be interviewed by the then chief of police at Munich for the position that was later to earn Heydrich the sobriquet of "Pangman of the Reich." Heydrich was selected for the position of chief of the German Gestapo under Heinrich Himmller of the SS. Kuehn made the statement that if this position had been offered to him he would have readily accepted it. Later Kuehn was interviewed with Heydrich and the Chief of Police of Munich by Heinrich Himmller. This group discussed steps which should be taken to combat Communism in Germany.

Kuehn was now assigned with [redacted] to confidential work investigating the police department at Altona, Germany. Kuehn [redacted] were rivals for a high government position as Regierungsrat, a government advisor. Friction developed

between Kuehn [redacted] for this position with both individuals apparently attempting to discredit the other. A check appeared in the amount of 3,700 marks with Kuehn's signature on it. This check was fraudulent. A question therefore arose as to Kuehn's responsibility [redacted]

[redacted] Kuehn claims that he made an investigation and discovered that this fraudulent check had been prepared by [redacted] Kuehn wrote his suspicions into a letter and forwarded it to [redacted] "und alte Kampfe" or old party veteran, [redacted]  
[redacted] era of invasion into the Scandinavian countries. [redacted]  
[redacted]

Upon this occasion Kuehn was placed in a serious position for he was guilty of hurling accusations at a man who now held an important party position. Kuehn was arrested and placed in prison. He was soon cleared of the charges which [redacted] had lodged against him and returned to his position as sales manager with the coffee firm. During the bloody days of June, 1934, which will be marked in history as the blood purge of the Nazi Party, Kuehn was again placed in prison at the Alexanderplatz Praesidium in Berlin. The reason for this arrest is not certain. Kuehn maintains that a [redacted]

[REDACTED] any rate

the charges were never proved against Kuehn and he was released. Meanwhile Kuehn had been readmitted to his commission in the German Navy and was given a rating of Lieutenant, first class, or oberleutnant.

On April 18, 1935, he left Germany on the "SS Stuttgart" in company with his wife, Friedel, on an assignment of the German Navy to study the Japanese language. Kuehn and his wife arrived in transit to the Far East in New York City on April 29, 1935. They spent ten days in New York City, and left there for San Francisco, California, where the German

Congulate was contacted. From San Francisco they sailed to Honolulu, Hawaii, arriving there May 15, 1935. On May 27, 1935, Kuehn went to the German Consul at Honolulu and had his passport renewed for a period of five years.

After spending three weeks in Honolulu, the party sailed to Japan. They arrived at Yokohama, July 18, 1935, and proceeded to the Imperial Hotel at Tokyo. A contact was made in Japan with a [redacted] of the Imperial University. Kuehn discussed with [redacted] the proper steps for enrollment in Japanese studies.

The party remained in Tokyo for some time. On June 29, 1935, Kuehn wrote to his stepson, Leopold, from Tokyo urging him to come to the Far East for the purpose of studying Japanese so that he might return to Germany well qualified for higher service in the Nazi Government. Kuehn made the statement in his letter that he had received a good connection with the Ad. This refers to the Auswartiges Amt, or the German Foreign Service.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
From Japan, Kuehn and his wife proceeded to Shanghai, China. Kuehn had a letter addressed to a prominent official in Canton, China. This letter was signed by [redacted] Berlin, Germany. It is important for Kuehn was introduced as Lieutenant, First Class, of the German Navy. This person in

Canton was requested to aid Kuehn in his assignment to learn the Japanese language. This letter was dated at Berlin, Germany, April 14, 1935. Kuehn placed on deposit in the banks at Shanghai at this time or there was placed to his deposit at a later date the sum of \$50,000.

From Shanghai, China, Mrs. Kuehn continued on around the world to Germany. Otto Kuehn returned to Honolulu on board the Japanese steamer, the Chichibu Maru, arriving there on August 15, 1935. Kuehn was granted permission to enter the United States at Honolulu as a student for a period of twelve months to study the Japanese language at the University of Hawaii. Living quarters were obtained first at the Alexander Young Hotel and later at the Hotelland Hotel in Honolulu.

[REDACTED]

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The image consists of a vertical stack of approximately 20 thick, horizontal black bars. These bars vary in length, creating a layered, textured effect. The bars are set against a white background and appear to be slightly irregular in width and position, giving them a hand-painted or abstract feel.

Such first payments were received in May, 1936, from a bank account of the ~~HOLLAND~~ Corporation, Rotterdam, Holland. The ~~firm~~ received funds from this source established until February, 1939. Within this period of less than ~~three~~ years ~~they~~ received over \$70,000. He attempted to explain the reason by saying that an aunt in Sweden had deposited this, and to do it gratis. The balance was soon depleted. On May 14, 1936, the ~~firm~~ opened a new account, ~~the~~ ~~name~~ CTCY, name of the bank.

Their correspondent bank in Honolulu to Kuehn's credit. Two days later he called for an additional \$500.



[REDACTED] Later in the month eight  
acres of land were leased by Otto Kuehn from the Kanehoe Ranch  
Company; seven of these acres were leased to a Japanese farmer  
and only one acre was retained by Otto for gardening purposes.  
Kuehn raised chickens, fruits, and vegetables on this plot.

[REDACTED]

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This image shows a stack of approximately 20 thick, black horizontal bars of varying lengths, arranged vertically. The bars are solid black and appear to be cutouts from a larger document or page. They are positioned in two distinct vertical columns, with some bars being longer than others and overlapping slightly. The overall effect is one of a heavily redacted or obscured document.

- 15 -

On March 4, 1938, Otto Euehn, 45 years of age,  
Wendel Euehn, aged 40, and Ruth Euehn, 23, applied for American  
citizenship in the United States Territorial Court at Honolulu.  
They were residing on Kaimala Avenue in Kailua on the island  
of Oahu.

The Kuchas had not been in Honolulu for two and one half years. They continued to maintain a very high standard of living with no apparent source of income.

Otto Fuehn did not remain in Japan but returned to Honolulu on September 22, 1939.

Otte evidently decided that he should enter some business if he was to successfully maintain his double existence. He, therefore, purchased 27% per cent in the Modern Steel Furniture Company of Honolulu for the sum of \$3,000 and assumed all liabilities of the business. This Company had maintained a \$6,000 to \$9,000 yearly business in contracts with the United States Navy.



[REDACTED]

Kuehn's business the Modern Steel Furniture Company lasted only nine months. On May 31, 1939, an assignment was made for the benefit of creditors. This by the man who claimed that his financial genius had amassed such a great fortune in Germany. Kuehn claimed great financial loss here but it is recalled that he only paid \$3,000 for the business. Although, he assumed the debts of the business his losses could not have been too severe.

[REDACTED]

Were they not applicants for United States citizenship and active in the social life of the Island.

b7c

Study of the Chlorophyll associated with a private Chlorophyll  
four and one half hours. The Gamma value of this was also measured.

to justify his lengthy stay in the "Islands" under the pretext of studying the Japanese language. His teacher in Japanese reported that he could scarcely speak a complete sentence in Japanese and cared nothing of Japan's history and culture.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a vertical stack of about 15 to 20 thick, dark-colored books or binders. The spines of the books are visible, though the text on them is illegible due to the lighting. The stack is slightly uneven, with some books protruding more than others. The background is a plain, light color.

三

The rapid series of events occurring in June which culminated in the Fall of France on June 22, 1940, made the Chinese more bold in the transmission of their espionage information. They were seen to go to the Japanese consulate on several occasions during this month with material concerning

American naval operations in the Hawaiian Islands. They were dealing not with the Japanese Consulate directly, but with the Japanese Naval Intelligence [REDACTED] b6  
b7c

The Japanese Consulate was to serve only as the depository for the material which was dispatched by courier to Headquarters in Japan.

A code system was worked out at this time by the Kuehns to keep the information which they furnished confidential to all parties except the intended recipient. There was forwarded [REDACTED] a German dictionary; an identical copy of this dictionary was retained by Otto Kuehn. This dictionary was sent to Japan [REDACTED] on a Japanese steamer. Coded messages were prepared in the following manner. Words were referred to in numbers; for example, 186-6 would mean the 186th page of the book, the sixth word from the top of the page. If the word, therefore, were "please" this entry would refer to the German word for please in the dictionary.

Although the Kuehns had sufficient money concealed in their possession they still attempted to create an air of financial distress.

[REDACTED]  
The second espionage payment from the Japanese arrived when the Kanakura Maru docked in Honolulu on September

13, 1960. [REDACTED] Otto Kuehn the sum of \$20,000 in American currency. Although [REDACTED] previously called at the Kuehn home to make deliveries this meeting took place in front of the F.Y.C. steamship offices in Honolulu for removed from the Kuehn residence.

Meanwhile Kuchu decided to utilize his Kalama residence as a lookout point for the work going on at Saipan Naval Air Base for which millions had been appropriated. This was one of the airfields later bombed in the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. Kuchu, therefore, built into the roof of his house a corner window from which he could observe all activity. It is interesting to note that Kuchu was an excellent carpenter and all of the work was performed by him personally.

The Kuehn received firsthand information as to the celebration of the German victories on September 22, 1940,

576

As a subterfuge Kuehn commenced work at the Honolulu Iron Works at a salary of \$25 per week. On June 3, 1942, he applied to the Fuller Brush Company as a salesman. Kuehn worked at the Honolulu Iron Works from May 30, 1941, to June 28, 1941.

On June 16, 1941, the Japanese Consulate was requested to assume the duties of the German Consulate at Honolulu in view of the United States order closing the German Consulates throughout the United States. It will be recalled that the Japanese Government had allied herself into the Axis powers on September 27, 1940, the day following the embargo placed September 26, 1940, on the shipment of scrap iron to Japan from the United States. The position of German Consul at Honolulu was purely an honorary one that could not be trusted with the confidential material which Kuehn was transmitting through the official Japanese Consulate. Then, too, Kuehn thought that since the Japanese Consulate was now the official

consulate for the Germans no suspicion would attach itself to his visits there.

Kuehn filed an application on June 30, 1941, to become a citizen of the United States. If he had been successful American citizenship would have been granted to him on January 30, 1943.

Less than thirty days after this filing on July 16, 1941, Kuehn contacted the Japanese consulate at Honolulu and gave to the consul a message prepared in the prearranged number code for transmission by courier to Japan. The new consul was informed by Kuehn at this time that he was acting as an espionage agent with authority higher than a mere consular official. This message was transmitted by one of the three official consular couriers working from Honolulu to Tokyo.

Money for the services performed by Kuehn soon arrived. In the afternoon of October 18, 1941, Otoejiro Okuda, who was now vice consul to Kita, the consul, left the consulate at 1615 Yucca Avenue in company with Tadao Morinaga, the espionage agent who had arrived in March. They drove to the vicinity of Kuulei and Kalaeloa Avenues at Keaau, on the Island of Oahu, a few blocks from Kuehn's residence on Keaau Avenue.

In the event that he was questioned Okuda was dressed in golf slacks and was completely equipped with his golf clubs in order to make it appear that he was on his way to a pleasant game of golf.

Morimura was dressed in blue slacks and an open-front shirt. Okuda handed to Morimura a package with instructions that this was to be delivered to Otto Kuehn personally.

Morimura left Okuda in the car and walked back toward the Kuehn residence.

The Kuehn residence was well concealed from inquisitive eyes in that it was surrounded by a ten-foot Ironwood hedge. Morimura did not go to the front of the house but went to the rear where he came upon Eberhard Kuehn, one of the sons, working in the yard. Morimura called for the father, Otto Kuehn. Eberhard went into the house and returned with his father.

Morimura handed to Kuehn a money sack from which Kuehn removed a package of bills in American currency. This was later found to be the sum of \$14,000. With these bills was a typewritten message which requested Kuehn to make a short wave radio test a few nights later. Morimura then left. Kuehn carefully digested the message and carelessly threw it toward a trash fire and returned to the house. Morimura retraced his steps to the automobile wherupon the party drove back to the Consulate.

Kuehn contacted the Japanese Consulate on three occasions during the month of November. As an excuse in the event he was questioned he had the alibi that he merely wanted to send money to his son, Leopold, in Germany. He furnished

during the month of November the complete strength of the United States Naval vessels based on Hawaiian waters. The consul requested the location of the area where the fleet maneuvers were to be held but Kuhn was unable to furnish this data to him.

The Japanese High Command had previously laid the plans for the delivery of their crippling blow at the American fleet in Pearl Harbor. Nomura and Kurusu were in Washington apparently negotiating for a peaceful settlement. A reliable man who was a devout disciple to the Nazi cause was needed; better still a person thoroughly familiar with naval vessels and operations was absolutely necessary. Kuhn was an Oberleutnant in the German Navy; in addition he was a member of the Nazi Party of Germany and thoroughly dependable in view

of the information which he had furnished in the past concerning Pearl Harbor and vicinity. They had furnished him with payments totaling over \$40,000 during the past year and a half. This man was needed not to furnish further technical data but to work out a set of signals which could be flashed to waiting two-man submarines in the event the American Navy patrols discovered the Japanese fleet in proximity to their shores. Otto Kuhn was that man.

On November 17, 1941, Kuhn took to the Japanese Consulate a set of seventeen signals which would show the

operations of the American fleet. The High Command in Tokyo considered this system too complicated. On December 3, 1941, Kusun submitted the final plan which met with their approval.

This plan of signalling was to utilize lights, beacon fires and clothing displayed at prominent positions for the off-shore lookout in the two-man submarines. The signals were to be as follows:

1. Several aircraft carriers plan to put to sea.
2. All battle force has sailed December 1 to 2.
3. Several aircraft carriers have sailed between December 1 and 2.
4. All aircraft carriers have sailed December 2 to 3.
5. All battle force has sailed December 4 to 6.
6. Several aircraft carriers have sailed December 4-6.
7. All aircraft carriers have sailed December 6 to 8.
8. All escorting force has sailed December 8 to 10.

These signals were to be given by the following methods:

1. By means of lights from Kusun's Zenkai Beach House at night.
  - a. One light from 8 P.M. to 9 P.M. indicates 2
  - b. Two lights from 8 P.M. to 9 P.M. indicates 5
  - c. One light from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. indicates 3
  - d. Two lights from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. indicates 6
  - e. One light from 10 P.M. to 11 P.M. indicates 3
  - f. Two lights from 10 P.M. to 11 P.M. indicates 7
  - g. One light from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. indicates 4
  - h. Two lights from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. indicates 8

These signals were to have been given by window lights or automobile headlights.

All of these signals could have been given at any hour during the night time by means of one full automobile

headlight and one half light which would indicate 1, 2, 3, and 4 while two headlights would indicate 5, 6, 7 and 8.

For signals during the daytime it was planned to use one or two sheets displayed on a clothesline which was erected on the beach side of the Lanikai Beach house. These signals were to commence at 9 A.M. in the morning.

The full set of signals could be sent during the daylight hours at any time by means of a star boat owned by Fuchs and kept at the Lanikai Beach House. There were two sails for this boat. A sail with a large star displayed on the sail would indicate 1, 2, 3, or 4. If the sail was a star with the large numeral III, 2, 5, 7, or 8 would be conveyed.

The Kalama house of the Fuchs family was also to serve as a signal point. This house is quite prominent and can be observed several miles offshore. Lights were to be displayed from the corner window which Fuchs had constructed in the summer of 1940. These signals were to commence at 7:00 P.M. and to continue hourly until 1:00 A.M.

The radio want ads program of a commercial station would be utilized also. A Chinese rug advertised for sale at 9:45 A.M. would indicate signals 3 or 6; a beauty parlor operator located would indicate 5 or 8 while a complete chicken farm advertised for sale would indicate 4 or 7. All answers to be made to Post Office Box 1470 in Honolulu, Fuchs' mailing address. This radio station, of course, was unaware of the significance of these ads which appeared to be of a purely business nature.

These same signals could be given by means of a short wave radio transmitter or through a brush or trash fire at a certain location on the Island of Maui.

Arrangements were made that in the event the Consulate desired to contact Kuehn further a postal card would be addressed to him at Post Office Box 1478 signed Jianshi.

This card was not received and Kuehn did not contact the consular officials again. Otto Kuehn, Friedel Kuehn, Ruth and Eberhard Kuehn were arrested on December 8, 1941.

Mrs. Kuehn had secreted on her person the sum of \$5,000 in \$100 bills. Ruth Kuehn had placed into the lining of her window curtains \$5,000 in \$100 bills. There was found in the Kuehn residence the 15 power Zeiss and Leitz binoculars; a Leica camera with one F2 lens and a fine F1.35 lens; one Zeiss-Ikon-Tengor camera, Model D with a Goerz frontar lens. There were two movie cameras one Cine-Fedor, 16-millimeter with an F1.9 lens, and one DeVry 8-millimeter with an F3.5 lens.

Of great interest was a scrapbook maintained by Kuehn. This scrapbook consisted entirely of newspaper clippings cut from the daily papers during the preceding two years.

There were such interesting articles as "Six new United States subs leaving here soon to join Asiatic fleet," "Thirty warships here named Fleet's Barbers Detachment," and "Army here will get 200 new fighting planes." There were other articles which named the vessels stationed at Pearl Harbor according to their classification.

The groundwork had been carefully laid by the Japanese. At 7:55 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941, the surprise attack occurred. The American fleet stationed at Pearl suffered great damage. Mactan Field, Wheeler Field near Bellfield Barrocks and the new naval base at Ewa were strafed and bombed by the pursuit planes, fighters, horizontal and dive bombers and torpedo planes of the Japanese.

That day will live forever in the world's history as the most treacherous act of destruction ever practiced by a supposedly civilized nation upon a nation with which she was then at peace, but punishing it is the treachery of a man who destroyed a nation, Bernard Julius Otto Fuhrn. Otto Fuhrn was arrested on December 8, 1941, the day following the attack of the Japanese. Friedel, the wife, and Ruth, the daughter, together with Martin Eberhard, a son, were also taken into custody at this time. A military commission was set up to hear the charges against Otto Fuhrn since military law was placed into effect immediately following the attack. These army officers heard the case of Otto Fuhrn and rendered the verdict of death by a firing squad. Friedel, Ruth and Martin Eberhard were heard by a hearing board which ordered their internment for the duration of the war.

The death sentence of Otto Fuhrn was commuted to fifty years' imprisonment at hard labor in a Federal Penitentiary following the decision of the Supreme Court on the case of the eight German saboteurs. Strange as it may seem, the caponage

activities w, Otto Kuhn took place wh. the United States was formally at peace. The statutes in effect at that time did not provide for the sentence of death in a case of espionage except during the time of formal war. His arrest of December 8, 1941, did not give Kuhn the opportunity to continue his acts after we were formally in the conflict.

The Japanese consular officials who had participated in the events leading up to Pearl Harbor were also safe from the penalty of death since they were returned safely to Japan in exchange for the American consular officials held by the Japanese. There was sufficient evidence in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to have convicted Nagao Kita, the consul, Otojirō Okuda, the vice consul, and Todari Maruwa under our espionage laws for they violated every principle of international law and treaty concerning the rights and privileges of diplomats. However, an American life is worth many times that of a Japanese and our hostages were returned safely to the United States.

When Otojirō Okuda was being questioned by an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the full extent of his espionage work, he refused to answer and proved very stubborn. At last when the realization dawned upon him that all of his supposedly secret work was known to the FBI, he blurted forth with "The Japanese Government does not consider the transmission of military information an act of espionage."

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET9

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 b6 b7c b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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65-1574-138 (cover memorandum)

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August 19, 1943.

L5-1574-138  
Mr. J. E. Thornton  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
205 Dillingham Building  
Honolulu 16, Hawaii

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-14-86 BY SP5/CJS

RE: Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn et al  
Espionage G and J

Dear Mr. Thornton:

In order that the Bureau files may be complete on the above entitled case it is desired that your office obtain and forward the following information, some of which is presently in the exhibit section of your files.

1. All correspondence regardless of whether it was incorporated into the investigative reports should be sent. If this matter is voluminous it is requested that it be reduced to a 35 millimeter film and forwarded in that manner. Secure also photographs or photocopies of all of Kuehn's correspondence in the possession of ONI.

2. The copy of Mrs. Kuehn's address book and the German dictionary which was used as a code book are to be forwarded with the correspondence.

3. The photographs of the Kuehns' two homes, the Japanese Mr. Christensen and the sail boat should be included.

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_ 4: The investigative reports which you have forwarded on Mr. Kuehn do not reflect a search of the safety deposit box at the Mr. Bishop National Bank which was rented by Otto Kuehn in the name of him and wife in April, 1940. If this has not been done a court order Mr. should be secured to open the box. It should also be ascertained whether Mr. Onwans has entered this deposit box subsequent to December 7, 1941.

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_ 5: The reports in the case reflect that Kuehn was an ex- Mr. Captain \_\_\_\_\_ 6: The report that he constructed the dormer window in his Falome \_\_\_\_\_ 7: A careful search made through both the Lankas and Falome \_\_\_\_\_ 8: Effort to see if a concealed transmitter was placed in either of Mr. McMurtry \_\_\_\_\_ 9: 23 1943 P.M. It will be noted that Kyogoku or the consul, Rita, Mr. Munford \_\_\_\_\_ 10: Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_ 11: FEBRUARY 19TH 1943 OF INVESTIGATION  
Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_ 12: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_ 13: Miss \_\_\_\_\_ 14: SEPTEMBER 10, 1943  
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Page Two

requested a short wave test when the \$14,000 was paid on October 18, 1941. In order to be certain that Iucha did not have a transmitter, it is requested that electricity bills be compared for 1940 - 1941 with those of 1939.

[Redacted area]

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

AIR MAIL

b7c  
b7e

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Honolulu 16, T.H.  
September 14, 1943

*handwritten*  
*Director's Office*  
Director, FBI

Re: BERNARD JULIUS OTTO KUEHN, was, et al  
ESPIONAGE--J

Dear Sir:

410  
65-13888

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-14-86 BY SP-6714

This appears significant in the light of the signal plan and method of reporting such information as described by OTTO KUEHN in his signed statement as set forth on pages 10-12 in the report of [REDACTED] dated January 5, 1942, at Honolulu. The two plans are remarkably alike, with only slight changes, being effected in the latter plan, probably to meet the exigencies of a changing situation.

40

The notable aspect in the similarity of the two plans would appear to be the likelihood that this was a universal plan, adopted by the Japanese government for the reporting of this type of information by its agents abroad.

*known*

The above is being brought to the Bureau's attention only as a matter of information and interest in connection with the coverage of Japanese Espionage activities in this country.

COPIES DESTROYED  
869 AUG 4 1970

VIA CLIPPER

54 SEP 27 1943 524

Very truly yours,  
*J. E. Thornton* M  
RECORDED  
J. E. THORNTON 65-1524-139X  
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SEP 18 1943  
*Handwritten Signature*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KAN.

September 7, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

KREIN, Bernard J. O.  
No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters: letter dated September 6, 1943 from

4453 -  
4380 - Mrs. KREIN, Internment Camp Crystal City, Crystal City,  
4421 - Texas to Bernard J. O. Krein, No. 59603-L.

43803

Very truly yours,

*Warden*  
Warden

*SI  
Horne*

9-7-43  
EJC

65-1574-139



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**BERNARD KUEHN**

**PART 5 OF 7**

**FILE NUMBER: 65-1574**

SUBJECT KUEHN

FILE NUMBER 65-1574 SECTION 5

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU  
of  
INVESTIGATION

X DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

See also Nos. ....

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 15, 1944

Mr. W. W. Mayo  
Director  
Bureau of Prisons  
Washington, D. C.

#121  
Letter dated April 7, 1944 from Mr. Frank J. C.  
Deputy Director, 407384-J

#53

Dear Sir:

I am advised, over the telephone, that return to this  
institution of the 1400's will be imminent. I enclose herewith:

#121 Letter dated April 7, 1944 from Mr. Frank J. C.  
Deputy Director, 407384-J, Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C. 407384.

#53 Letter dated April 10, 1944 from 407385

FOR DEFENSE

W. W. MAYO

4-18-44

cc

Frank J. C.  
407384-J  
cc

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 16, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

To:

Office, Portland, O.  
Dep. No. 50002-1

Dear Sir:

Powellite (F. B. I. Commissioner) has written to this institution in the following language:

Letter dated April 5, 1944 from...

#26

Letter dated March 31, 1944 from Mr. Robert H. Smith,  
Chairman of the Intern and Civilian Defense Board, Kansas,  
to Edward T. C. Nichols, Director of Civilian Defense,

#121  
Letter dated April 3, 1944 from Edward T. C. Nichols,  
Chairman of the Intern and Civilian Defense Board, Kansas,  
to Edward T. C. Nichols, Director of Civilian Defense,

#121  
Letter dated April 5, 1944 from...

#53

#152

4-14-44  
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FOR DEFENSE



4-14-44

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Deleted under exemption(s) 5 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 7, 1974

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: FBNM, Bureau, D. C.  
Re: No. 5603-L

Dear Sir:

Forwarded herewith for cancellation and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#121 Letter dated March 24, 1974 from Mrs. Friedel  
Kuehn, Crystal City Internment C-3, Crystal City,  
Texas, to Bernard J. C. Kuehn, No. 5603-L. #7155

#152 Letter dated April 3, 1974 from #7156

4 #153 Letter dated March 29, 1974 from #7157

#193 Letter dated April 3, 1974 #7158

SPECIMENS PERMITTED IN LAB.

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- 1000

McLAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

April 3, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

#121 C  
Re: INMATE, Bernard J. O. #27183  
Reg. No. 5903-L

Dear Mr:

Enclosed herewith for censorship and return to this institution is a letter dated April 2, 1944 from the above-named inmate to Mrs. Friedel Kiehn, Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas.

Very truly yours,

*Ward Hunter*  
Ward Hunter  
Warden

Enclosure

*Mac*

Specimens retained in Lab.

K-6-44 *Mac*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

March 24, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re:

O HUEHN, Bernard J. C.  
Ref. No. 59603-L

Dear Sir:

Forwarded herewith for censorship and return to this institution are the following listed letters:

#53 Letter dated March 20, 1944 from R7009

#53 Letter dated March 22, 1944 from R7010

4 6152 6152 Message dated August 25, 1943 from R7011

#721 Letter dated March 17, 1944 from Mrs. Friedel  
Ruehn, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City,  
Texas, to Bernard J. C. Huehn, No. 59603-L. R7012

PICKUPS RETAINED IN LAB.

3-28-44 ad

Very truly yours,

W. A. F. Minter  
*W. A. F. Minter*



Enclosures

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2

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- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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- For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
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